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from CUSHIONS
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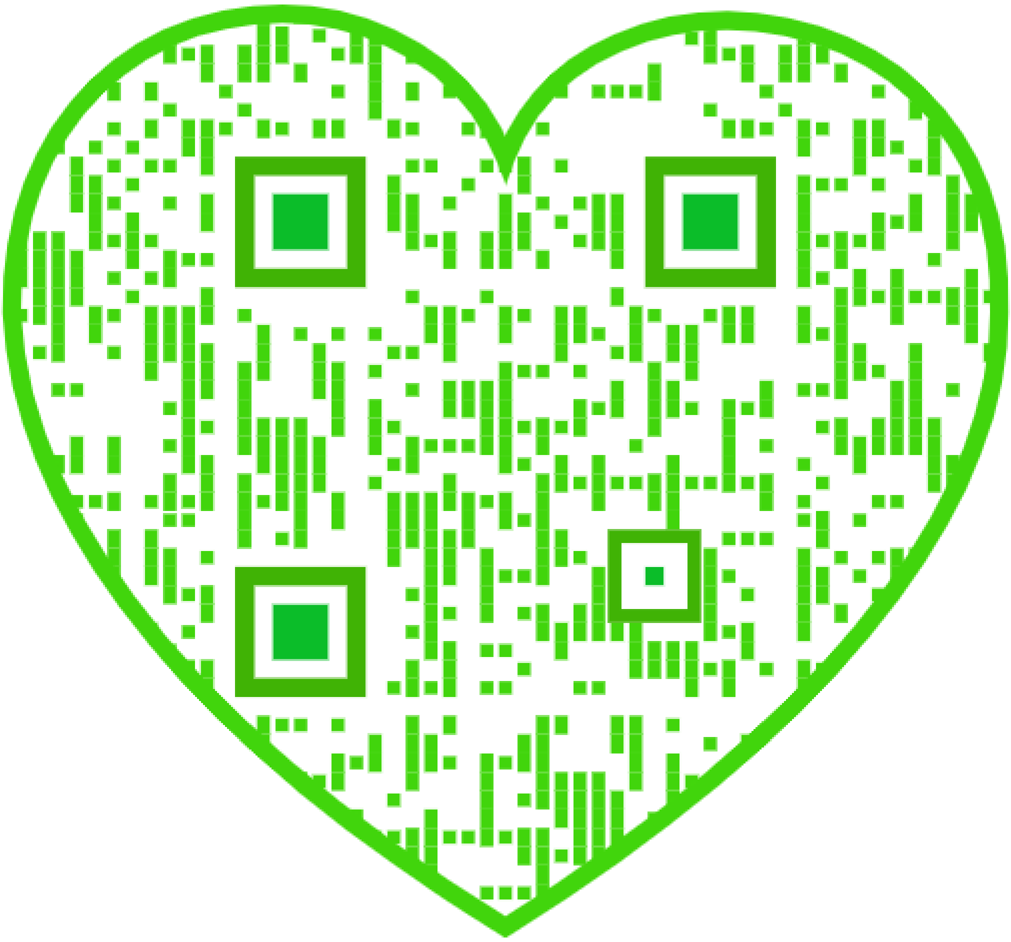

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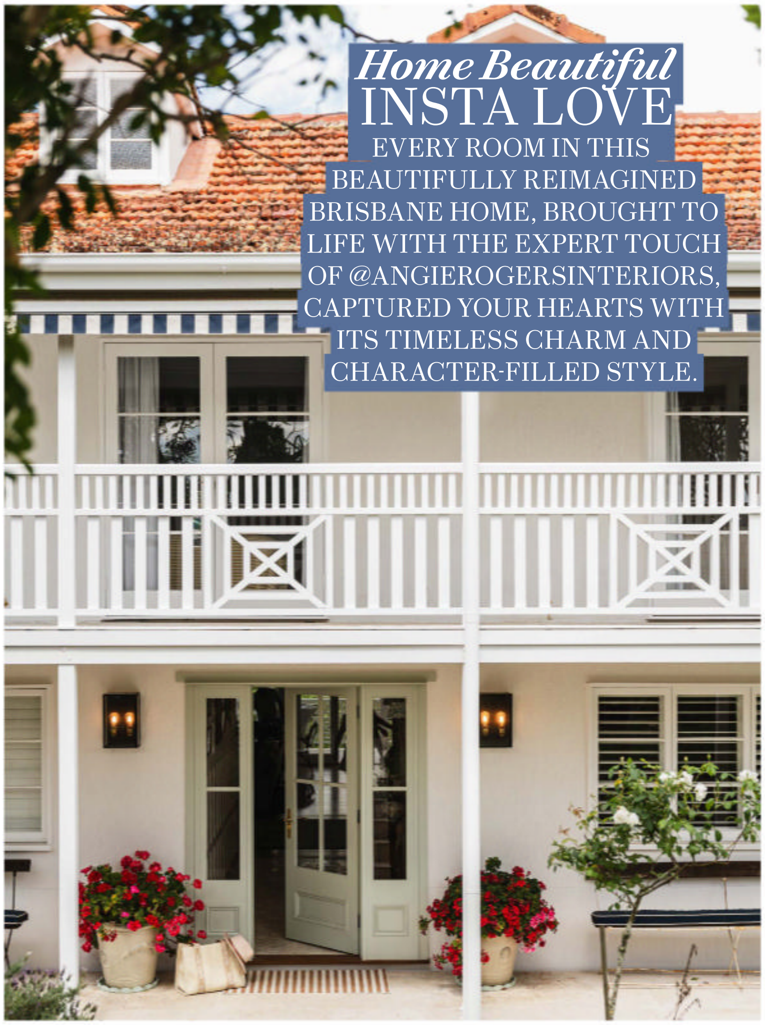


Home Beautiful INSTA LOVE

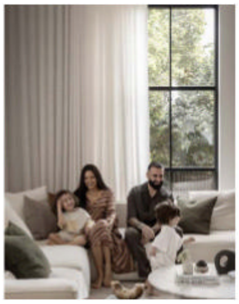
EVERY ROOM IN THIS BEAUTIFULLY REIMAGINED BRISBANE HOME, BROUGHT TO LIFE WITH THE EXPERT TOUCH OF @ANGIEROGERSINTERIORS, CAPTURED YOUR HEARTS WITH ITS TIMELESS CHARM AND CHARACTER-FILLED STYLE.

ME AND *HB*

We were thrilled to feature the exquisite home of interior designer Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors on the May 2025 cover of Home Beautiful magazine, and so was Amy! The talented creative made an oversized poster of the cover image to celebrate and found a new home for it in her Mornington Peninsula studio, where it snuggles up next to her delightfully curated homewares and furniture.

CLICK THROUGH

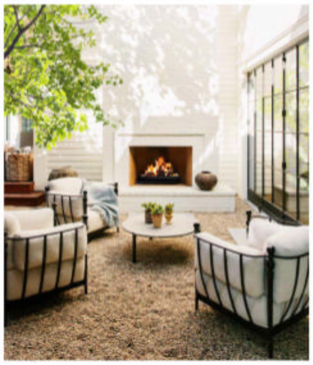
THE STORIES YOU'VE LOVED ON WWW.HOMEBEAUTIFUL.COM.AU



Gogglebox's Sarah Marie and Matty's home refresh

An English-style cottage garden in rural Australia

How Chloe Brookman revived two bathrooms for $7k each



COVER LOOK

THE WARM AMBIENCE OF FLICKERING FLAMES IN THIS OPEN-AIR HEARTH COSIES UP THE HOME'S CLASSIC COURTYARD, EVEN DURING THE COOLER MONTHS, WITH INTERIORS BY M ELLE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE BY FOREST STUDIO. PHOTOGRAPHY: *Miguel Flores-Vianna*

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP LEFT) **HANNAH PUECHMARIN** (BOTTOM LEFT) **ROMEO ARCHI** (BOTTOM MIDDLE) **MONIQUE LOVICK** (BOTTOM RIGHT) **ALANA LANDSBERRY** STYLING (BOTTOM LEFT) **STUDIO PRISCILLA** (BOTTOM RIGHT) **LUCY GOUGH** PAINT (IN BACKGROUND) **TAUBMANS TULLAH BELLE**

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ELLE'S TEXTILE OF THE MONTH
'Flying Ducks' is an iconic print by Mulberry for GP & J Baker. I've always loved it. It comes in linen, velvet and wallpaper in a range of colours at Elliott Clarke Textiles.

EDITOR'S LETTER

This may not be a popular opinion but I love cold, overcast, rainy weather. There's a saying that goes something like, there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing. And I feel the same way about home design. Think about it, when looking to buy or lease a property, people are often more enamoured with a place that is bathed in sunlight. But it's just as important to create a home that evokes the same feeling when the forecast is gloomy.

When I renovated my own home, I put a lot of thought into how it would look, feel and function in both sunny and inclement weather. Seating by windows to take in the greenery and vast sky outside is just as important to let you bask in sunlight as it is to be comforted by raindrops. Beautiful window treatments and soft flooring to layer and cocoon, a mix of lighting to create ambience and, on a micro-decorating level, plenty of candles and cushions to impart cosiness.

Right now, as we're sending this issue to print, we're in the early days of autumn, and I'm loving it! The gorgeous outdoor living room on the cover is just the place I'd like to be on a cool, relaxed afternoon, fire lit and throw blankets at the ready. If it inspires you, too, and you have the space for a fireplace or fire pit, flip to the feature on page 116. Our shopping story on page 28 is based on the hues and tartans of Scotland, a place that really comes into its own during this season. And with our coffee-themed food story (page 139) and our buyer's guide to coffee machines (page 122) adding to the vibe, it's time to wrap up, settle in and enjoy the issue.

Elle Lovelock

ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Get in touch with me on Instagram @ellelovelock

Beautiful buys Here's what I'm coveting and buying this month

I love a bolster. Pia velvet cushion in Sienna, $129, Country Road.

The Rose Garden crystal vase is perfect for, well, roses! $64.95, Villeroy & Boch.

Looks like art, but it's practical, too. Reid side table, $449, Domayne.

THIS IS
Vivaldi

'This is Vivaldi' is my favourite playlist on Spotify at the moment.

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) ALANA LANDSBERRY

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PHOTOGRAPHY **ARMELLE HABIB** STYLING (HEATHERLY DESIGN) **HEATHER NETTE KING**

THE EDIT
PAGE 14 →

STYLE NEWS

THE EDIT

The latest decor drops and noteworthy design finds

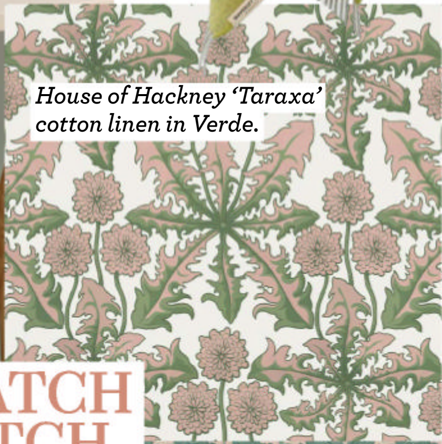
EDITED BY **REBECCA HOOTON** & **ALICE IERACE**

Surface level

Refresh your space with Laminex's latest Colour Collection – a soothing palette of nine shades inspired by the Australian landscape. This kitchen (below) teams Eucalypt on the cabinetry and island base with benchtops in Pumice for a warm and organic aesthetic. Find the full range of stylish, durable surfaces at laminex.com.au.

GRAPE ESCAPE

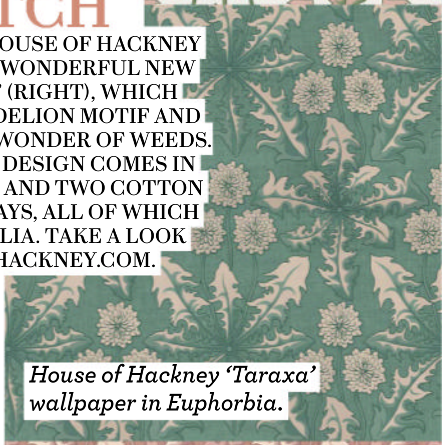
Family-owned winery Bird In Hand is expanding into Tasmania, with the release of its 2024 Tasmanian Series Riesling and Nouveau Pinor Noir, plus a Tasmanian Reserve Series Pinot Noir (above). See birdinhand.com.au.



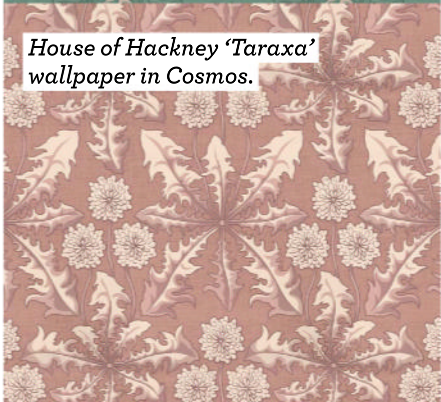
House of Hackney 'Taraxa' cotton linen in Verde.

SWATCH WATCH

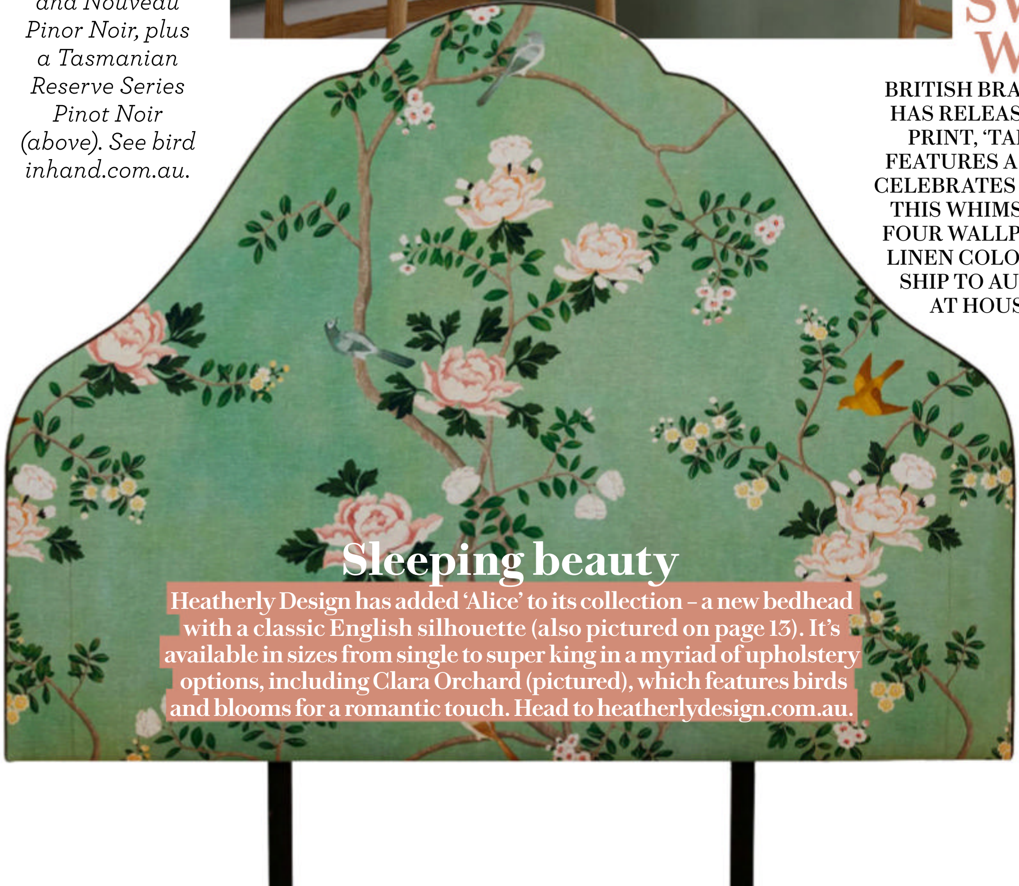
BRITISH BRAND HOUSE OF HACKNEY HAS RELEASED A WONDERFUL NEW PRINT, 'TARAXA' (RIGHT), WHICH FEATURES A DANDELION MOTIF AND CELEBRATES THE WONDER OF WEEDS. THIS WHIMSICAL DESIGN COMES IN FOUR WALLPAPER AND TWO COTTON LINEN COLOURWAYS, ALL OF WHICH SHIP TO AUSTRALIA. TAKE A LOOK AT HOUSEOFHACKNEY.COM.



House of Hackney 'Taraxa' wallpaper in Euphorbia.



House of Hackney 'Taraxa' wallpaper in Cosmos.



Sleeping beauty

Heatherly Design has added 'Alice' to its collection – a new bedhead with a classic English silhouette (also pictured on page 13). It's available in sizes from single to super king in a myriad of upholstery options, including Clara Orchard (pictured), which features birds and blooms for a romantic touch. Head to heatherlydesign.com.au.

Thread lightly

As Waverley Mills celebrates its 150th year, the Tasmanian maker is marking the moment with 'Breezy' – a nostalgic new collection of recycled wool throws. Each piece is woven in Tasmania and reflects the wild, untamed beauty of the area. They're available in three colourways (left to right): Moss, Bloom and Lake. Shop them online at waverleymills.com.

Pile high

Inject a soft wash of colour into your space with Double's 'Otago' Berber rug collection. Made from premium New Zealand wool with a deep pile and azo-free dyes, the design comes in five serene colours. We love Dark Olive (pictured left) and Terracotta (right) for grounding energy. Explore the full range at double.online.

PAVE THE WAY

In a thoughtful collaboration, Brickworks' new Forma pavers (pictured centre) feature 15 per cent reclaimed ceramics sourced from Mud Australia. Learn more about these stunning sustainable pavers at brickworks.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY (HEATHERLY DESIGN) **ARMELLE HABIB** (BRICKWORKS) **NICK BOWERS** STYLING (HEATHERLY DESIGN) **HEATHER NETTE KING**

5 minutes with...
MANU FEILDEL

We talk wine pairings and the ideal serving temperatures with everyone's favourite French chef and TV personality.

What are your go-to food and wine pairings?
"Roasted spatchcock 'coq au vin' style with shiraz. My twist on the traditional coq au vin, this dish served with a rich red wine sauce pairs excellently with a robust shiraz. Asian cuisine like Malaysian-style chicken satay, for example, marinated and grilled to perfection, pairs beautifully with an aged semillon."

Which wine glasses should you use?
"Wine needs to breathe, so opt for glasses with a wider bowl, especially for reds, to allow the aromas and flavours to open up. Holding the glass by the stem prevents your hands from warming the wine too quickly, keeping it at the ideal temperature. And match your glass to the variety – lighter wines like pinot noir benefit from a large, round bowl, while crisp whites shine in a tapered glass."

How important is wine temperature?
"It can completely change how a wine tastes and feels. Whites should be chilled but not icy, while reds benefit from being slightly cooler than room temperature to maintain freshness and structure. Le Cavist offers climate-controlled solutions, ensuring wines are stored and served at their ideal temperature."

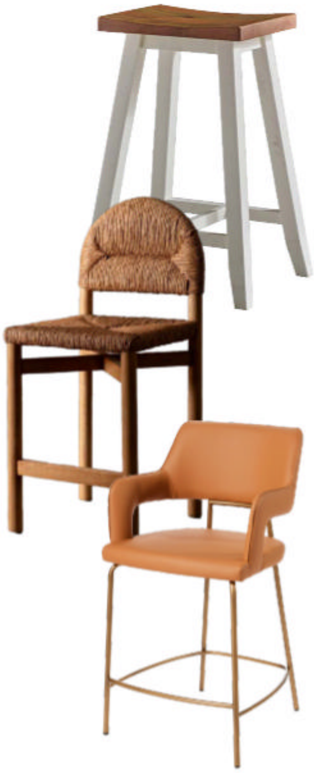
Taylors Estate Label collection features a temperature sensor on each label, as seen on the Taylors 2021 Estate Grenache (pictured above). The sensor changes colour depending on the bottle temperature, to help you see the perfect time to pour. Visit taylorswines.com.au. >

COUNTRY ROAD
HOME
COUNTRY RO

SHOP WATCH

COUNTRY ROAD HOME

Interiors devotees can rejoice – Country Road has opened the doors to its first standalone home boutique (left & below) in Albert Park, Victoria. Inside, you'll find a curated range of homewares, exclusive services such as complimentary gift wrapping and a scent station featuring luxe body products and candles. Stay up to date at countryroad.com.au.



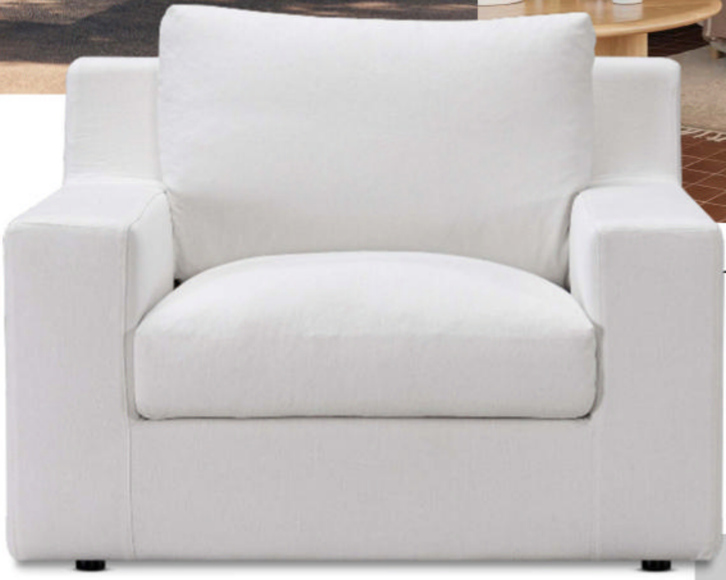
3 OF A KIND *bar stools*

From top *Marlow MKII backless* ***bar stool****, $199, Harvey Norman; 'Grace'* ***counter stool****, $990, Rachel Donath; Lucianne PU* ***bar stool*** *in Tan, $399, Harvey Norman.*

Grate idea

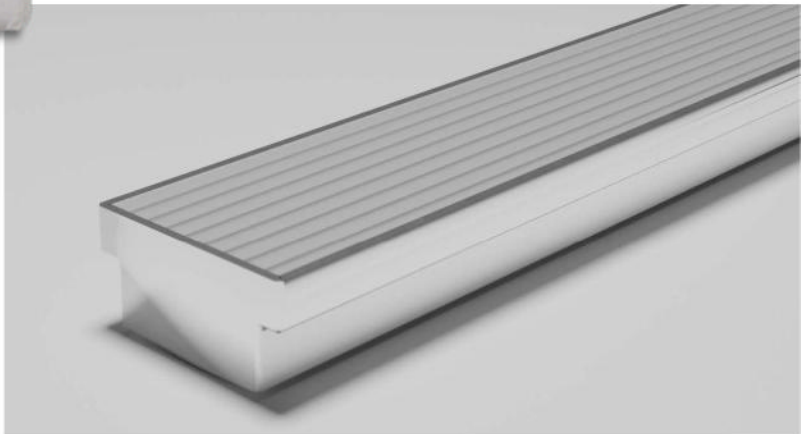
Building or renovating? Stormtech's new range of hinged-door drains (below) creates seamless, level thresholds for entry doors, which is a simple and stylish solution for achieving the Livable Housing Design Standard requirement of at least one step-free entrance. Visit stormtech.com.au for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY (COUNTRY ROAD) ANNIKA KAFCALOUDIS



LOUNGE LOVE

Feel a connection to your interiors with pieces that speak to your own individuality. MCM House's United collection has been designed with this in mind. Choose from sumptuous sofa and armchair designs, such as the refined 'Bayer' design (pictured above, in classic Casper), the chic 'Jean' modular and playful 'Hucks' modular. Take a look at the collection and colourways for your perfect match at mcmhouse.com.



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AT A GLANCE

Who *Ceramic artist and founder of AndClay.co, Cinnamon Garrett.*
What she does *Creates ceramics and artworks that celebrate natural forms.*
Where *Cinnamon lives on the sunny Gold Coast.*
Why she does it *"Creating feels not only natural, but necessary," says Cinnamon. "I don't feel aligned if I'm not making something."*
Visit *Andclay.co, @andclay.co*

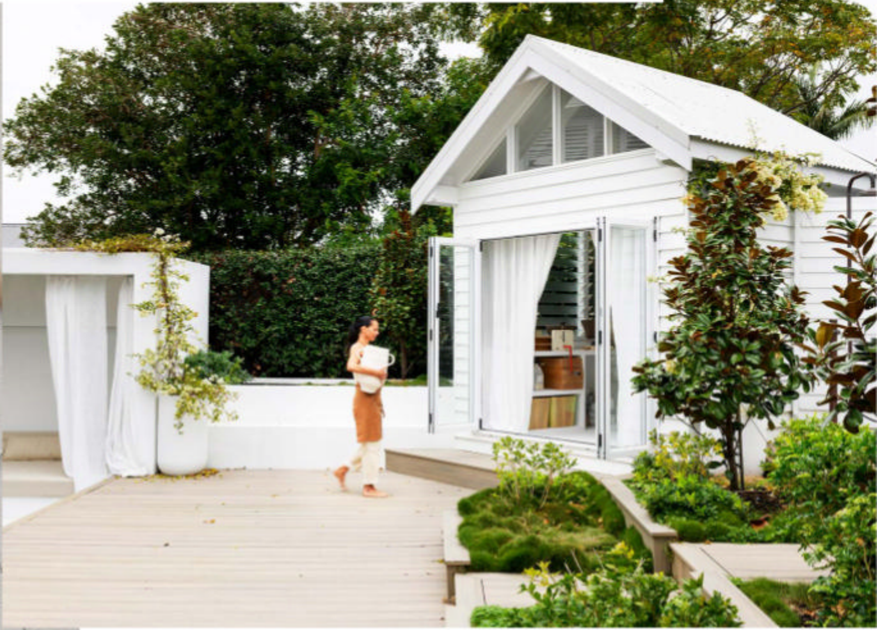
Creative collection

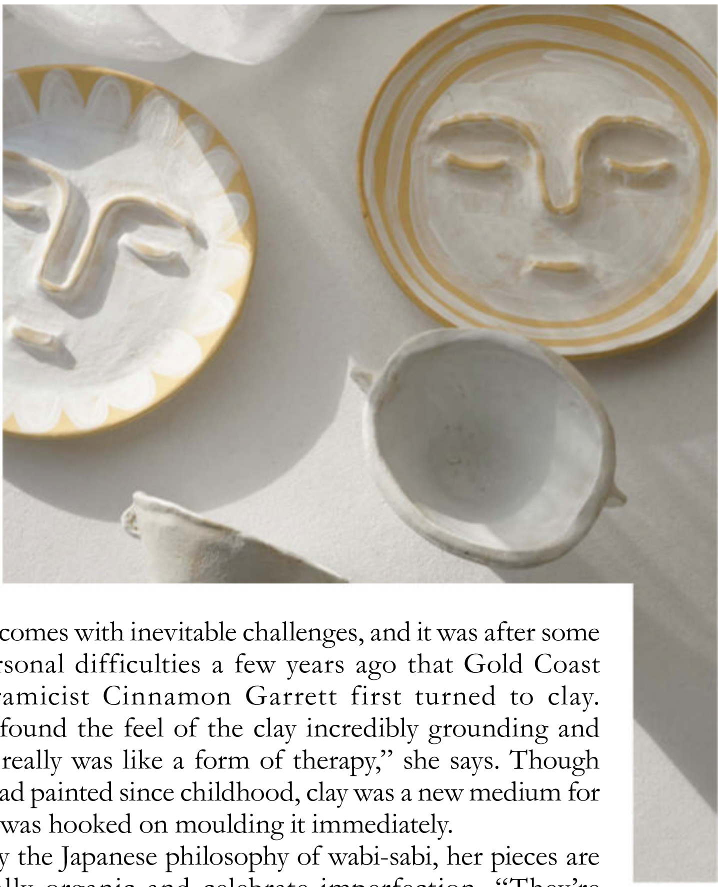
OF THE EARTH

Ceramic artist Cinnamon Garrett wholeheartedly embraces the philosophy of wabi-sabi in the creation of her beautifully organic and rustic works

STORY **TAHN SCOON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MINDI COOKE**

Break the mould *The creative force behind AndClay.co, Cinnamon (pictured), spends long hours in her light-filled home studio (below right) honing her pieces. These range from a pedestal bowl in her signature drippy white glaze (above left) to Sun Face plates and specially commissioned Cow plates (above right), or an array of bespoke vessels (opposite) with sculptural dips and curves.*





Life comes with inevitable challenges, and it was after some personal difficulties a few years ago that Gold Coast ceramicist Cinnamon Garrett first turned to clay. "I found the feel of the clay incredibly grounding and soothing. It really was like a form of therapy," she says. Though Cinnamon had painted since childhood, clay was a new medium for her, and she was hooked on moulding it immediately.

Inspired by the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, her pieces are fundamentally organic and celebrate imperfection. "They're unplanned, I let the clay do what it wants and embrace any imperfections rather than 'fixing' them. I think of nature and how often the most beautiful things are a little wonky or broken."

The timing was also right in terms of the life stage her children were in. "I like to work uninterrupted and that's not possible with little ones, but now they're older, I can ensconce myself in the studio for three days straight if I want to. I tend to either work in long stretches or not at all, depending on how I feel."

Unsurprisingly, Cinnamon's ceramics share a similar aesthetic to her beautiful light-drenched Mediterranean-inspired home (which was featured in *Home Beautiful* January 2024). "We intentionally designed our home, and my garden studio, to be calm spaces. We opted for a predominantly white palette, natural materials, rustic textures and a plethora of daylight."

Situated just beyond the green tiled pool, nestled into the back of the garden, the sweet weatherboard studio is painted in lashings of white, inside and out. "I even painted the Gyprock floorboards white," says Cinnamon. Softness is added by way of an oversized pendant from James Rui and custom curtains by LVH Byron Bay, both in white linen. A serene, creative energy lingers.

"I most often love to work alone, in complete silence. I don't even like music playing, so having a separate studio, even if it is small, is a luxury. Having said that, at other times I feel like the company of my family, so I'll drag everything in and work at the kitchen bench!"

Clay it safe *The studio was designed to optimise natural light, with a purpose-built bench where Cinnamon hand-builds her pieces (left) before they're placed onto shelves to dry (top left). White linen curtains allow her to 'hide the mess' when work is finished for the day.*

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YIKO-GPT large language model

Deep stain detection

More than a pre-programmed cleaner, the DEEBOT X8 PRO OMNI adapts to environmental changes in real time. Using stain detection and Re-Mop capabilities, the unit intelligently identifies areas that need deeper cleaning and quickly adjusts its strategy to target them for repeated mopping, effectively eliminating stubborn dirt and stains.

Narrow navigator

This unit is a true explorer, getting into all the nooks and crannies that are difficult to reach. Efficient path planning enables the DEEBOT to select the optimal route for each cleaning segment, reducing unnecessary turns and ensuring a smoother, more effective cleaning process. The combination of dual-structured light and the TruEdge 3D Edge Sensor ensures it stays close to obstacles while efficiently cleaning edges. It also instantly detects and adapts to sudden environmental changes, such as moving people or animals.

Extended edge cleaning

Powerful suction with extendable roller mop and side brush.

Self-maintenance

When the cleaning is done, the DEEBOT returns to its OMNI Station, where automated self-maintenance takes place. This station features a precise, temperature-controlled hot water mop washing system to balance cleaning effectiveness and energy efficiency. Once docked, it washes the mop, dries it with hot air to prevent odours, automatically empties the dustbin and maintains the optimal 200:1 cleaning solution ratio in the DEEBOT's water tank. And when all that's done, the unit stands ready for the next cleaning session.

ECOVACS DEEBOT X8 PRO OMNI ROBOTIC VACUUM & MOP, X8-PRO-OMNI-B, $2499.

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OK, Dreame. Start mopping.

Industry-First ProLeap™ System

The DREAME X50 ULTRA features an innovative retractable robotic leg system that provides the ability to navigate a two-tiered threshold of up to 6cm in height, or a single threshold of 4.2cm – the highest climb for a commercial robot vacuum. It's perfect for households with elevated thresholds, tricky ledges and height transitions between spaces.

Voice intelligence

Hands free, tell the X50 ULTRA what you would like it to do around the house, courtesy of the companion DREAMEHOME app that also provides you with customisable controls such as no-go and no-mop zones. Build a cleaning map of your home to help the robot learn and understand your spaces, including any special areas that require custom attention. In addition, you can use voice assistants Siri, Alexa or Google Assistant to order the unit to stop, start and schedule cleanings.

Full coverage

Cleaning made clever with an intelligent robot that responds to voice commands, learns your home and adapts to your needs.

Obstacle-crossing algorithm

Using the combined power of 3D structured light and an AI-powered camera, the X50 ULTRA can accurately identify up to 200 types of objects. This technology projects a detailed 3D map to detect and avoid smaller items while safely navigating closer to larger obstacles. The robot's LiDAR navigation sensor isn't locked in place on top of the unit – when it detects an obstacle like low furniture, the VersaLift sensor retracts into its body, to maintain the 89mm height that allows the X50 ULTRA to slide into those tight, inaccessible areas that are usually difficult to keep clean.

**DREAME X50 ULTRA
ROBOTIC VACUUM & MOP,
DRE-X50U, $2999.**

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CLEVER CLIMBER

The DREAME X50 ULTRA is leaps ahead, designed to climb into and clean previously unreachable spaces.

SideReach brushes

HyperStream Detangling DuoBrush

EXPERT GLASS CLEANING

For streak-free, edge-to-edge cleaning, the WINBOT W2 PRO OMNI offers the ultimate glass solution.

Anti-dropping technology

Ensure stable movement and no slippage with auto air pressure compensation and 5500Pa suction power for peace of mind.

Along-the-edge mode

Equipped with multiple sensors to navigate around obstacles and prevent jamming, the WINBOT features an industry-first cleaning mode that improves edge cleaning by 65 per cent.

Preset cleaning options

With WIN-SLAM 4.0 smart planning and a sensor smart detection frame, the Winbot adapts to all types of windows and scenarios. You can choose from four preset cleaning mode options through the ECOVACS HOME app to meet all your window cleaning needs.

Hands-free multifunctional dock

The versatile OMNI Station serves as a control panel, charger, stabiliser and portable storage unit for a truly hands-off experience. A single charge provides up to 110 minutes of operation, covering an area of up to 55 square metres.

WINBOT W2 PRO OMNI WINDOW CLEANING ROBOT, WG851-WINBOT, $999.

Anti-dropping protection

Intelligent planning

W2 PRO OMNI
Please select a mode and start cleaning
Remote Control
Thorough Cleaning
Start
Return
ECOVACS

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DECORATING IDEAS AND STYLISH BUYS FOR YOUR HOME

PHOTOGRAPHY **BRIGID ARNOTT**

HIGHLAND FLING
PAGE 28 →

Highland fling

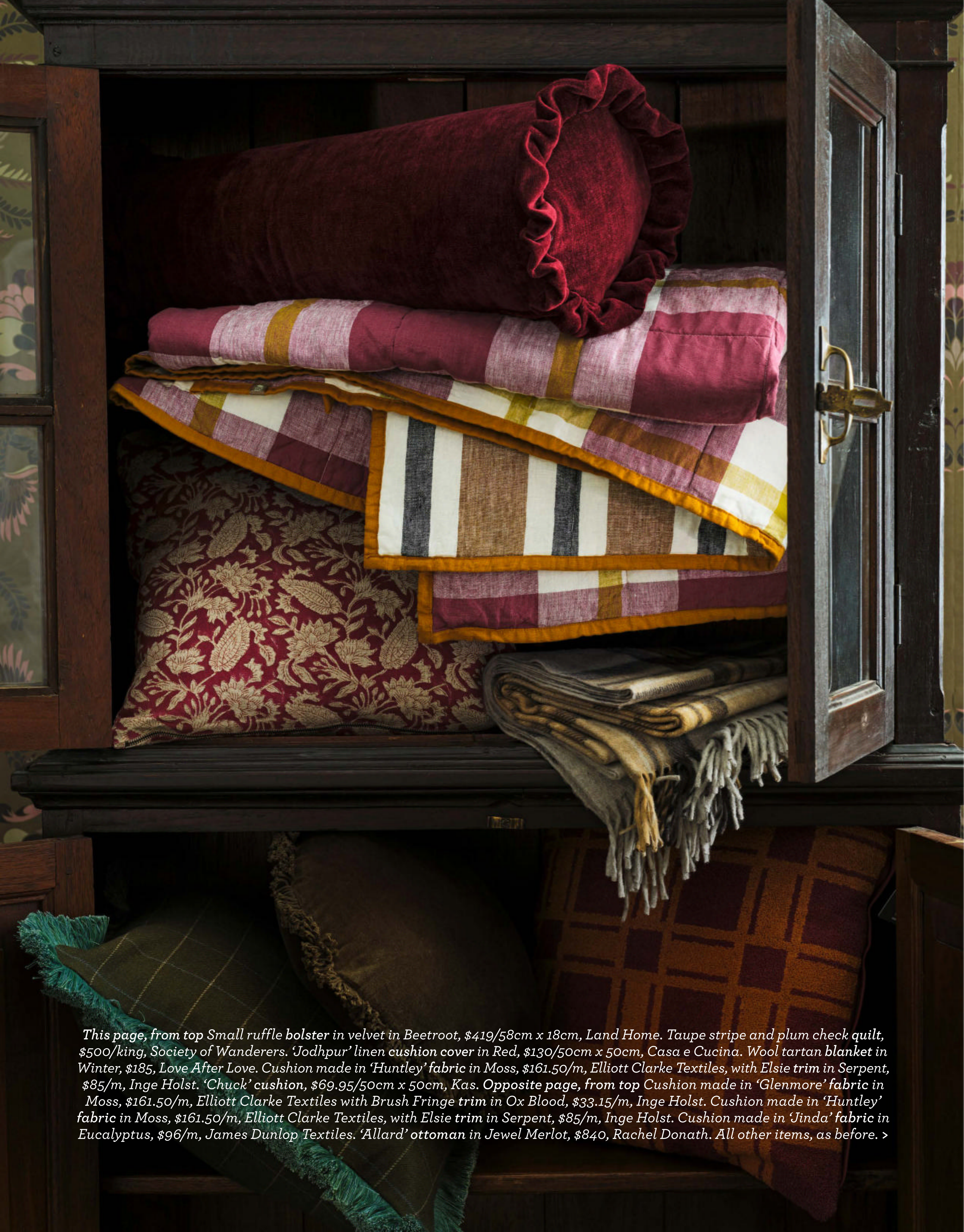
Envelop your living spaces in sumptuous fabrics in rich tartan, velvet and warm woollen weaves

STYLING **LUCY GOUGH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **BRIGID ARNOTT**

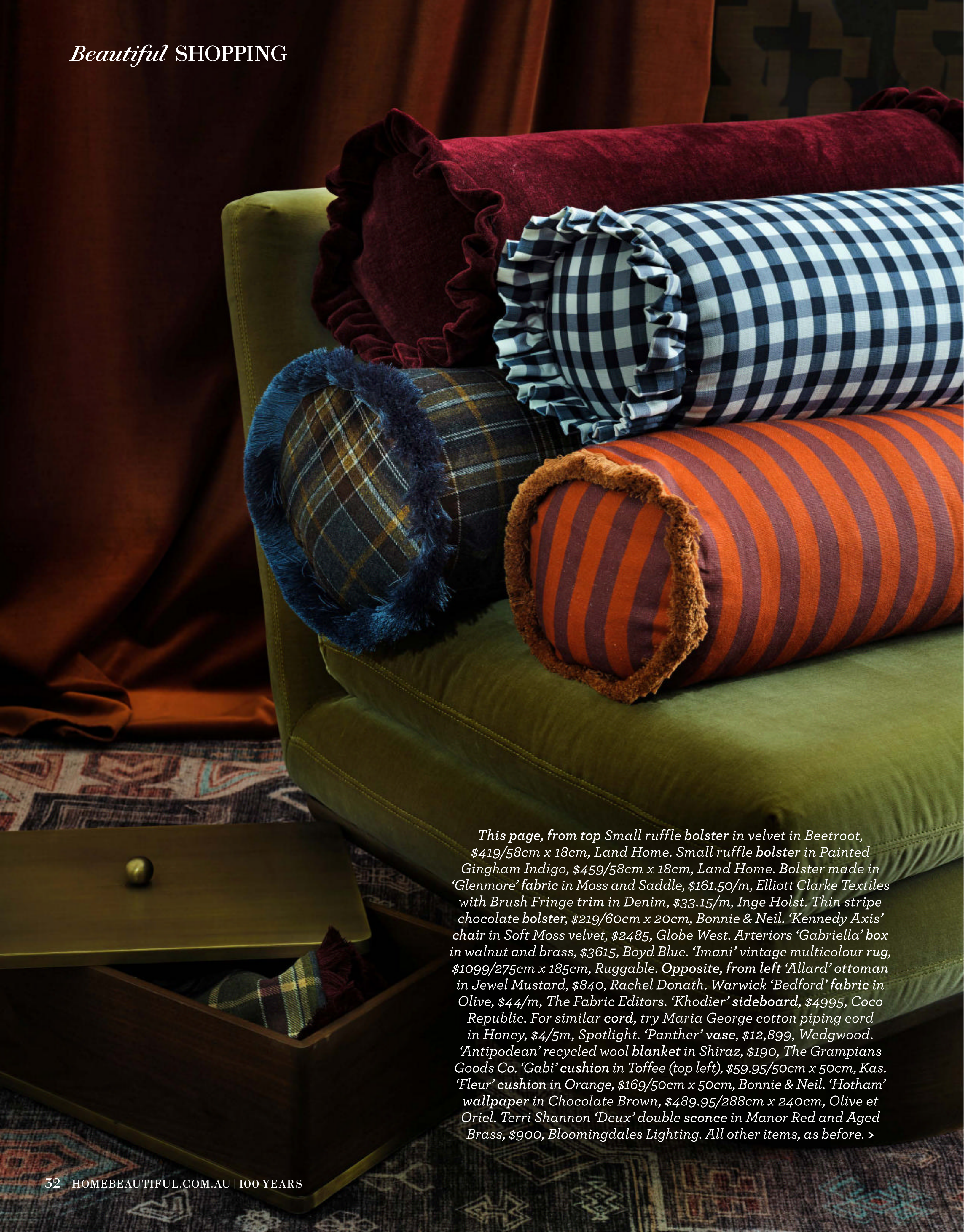
__This page, from left__ Warwick 'Cleo' velvet __fabric__ in Fern (in background), $88/m, 'Bedford' __fabric__ in Olive, $44/m, and 'Cleo' velvet __fabric__ in Copper, $88/m, all The Fabric Editors. 'Jinda' __fabric__ in Natural (left) and Eucalyptus, $96/m, James Dunlop Textiles. __Opposite page, from top__ 'Prancing Peacocks' __wallpaper__ in Antique, $420/10m roll, Milton & King. Vintage Indian glass Almirah __cabinet,__ $2150, Few & Far. Mohair __throw__ in Dargo (on door), $375, St Albans Textiles. Citta 'Twill' __cushion__ in Mulberry, $160/60cm x 40cm, RJ Living. Chamois 'Oriental' linen __cushion cover__ in Navy Blue, $124/50cm x 50cm, Casa e Cucina. 'Dancalia' __throw__ in Burgundy, $369, Kate Nixon. 'Lucille' suzani embroidered __cushion__, $99/76cm x 51cm, Pottery Barn. 'Rossi' check __throw__ in Verde, $215, Kate Nixon. Cushion in 'Pacte' __fabric__ in Nordique Grege by Casamance, $272/45cm x 45cm, Zepel Fabrics. 'Harriet' __cushion__ in Eggplant, $89.95/50cm x 50cm, Few & Far. Cushion made in 'Glenmore' __fabric__ in Moss, $161.50/m, Elliott Clarke Textiles with __Brush Fringe trim__ in Ox Blood, $33.15/m, Inge Holst. 'Fairfax' chair in Avignon __velvet__ in Olive, $2305, Coco Republic. Cushion (on chair) made in 'Jinda' __fabric__ in Eucalyptus, $96/m, James Dunlop Textiles. __Previous page, from left__ 'Georgia' __cushion__ in Forest, $69.95/50cm x 50cm, and 'Sierra' __cushion__ in Ink, $139.95/90cm x 40cm, both Provincial Home Living. Cushion made in 'Kincraig' __fabric__ in Ink, $161.50/m, Elliott Clarke Textiles, with Brush Fringe __trim__ in Slate Grey, $33.15/m, Inge Holst. __Cushion__ made in Warwick 'Cleo' velvet fabric in Cocoa, $88/m, The Fabric Editors. Morris & Co 'Bird & Pomegranate' __rug__ in Teal Green, $729/275cm x 185cm, Ruggable. All other items, as before. >

STYLING ASSISTANTS **DEBBIE COHEN, JESS ELCOCK, REBECCA ANDREWS, NONCI NYONI**

HAVING CUSHIONS MADE
with your FAVOURITE FABRICS
ADDS A PERSONAL TOUCH



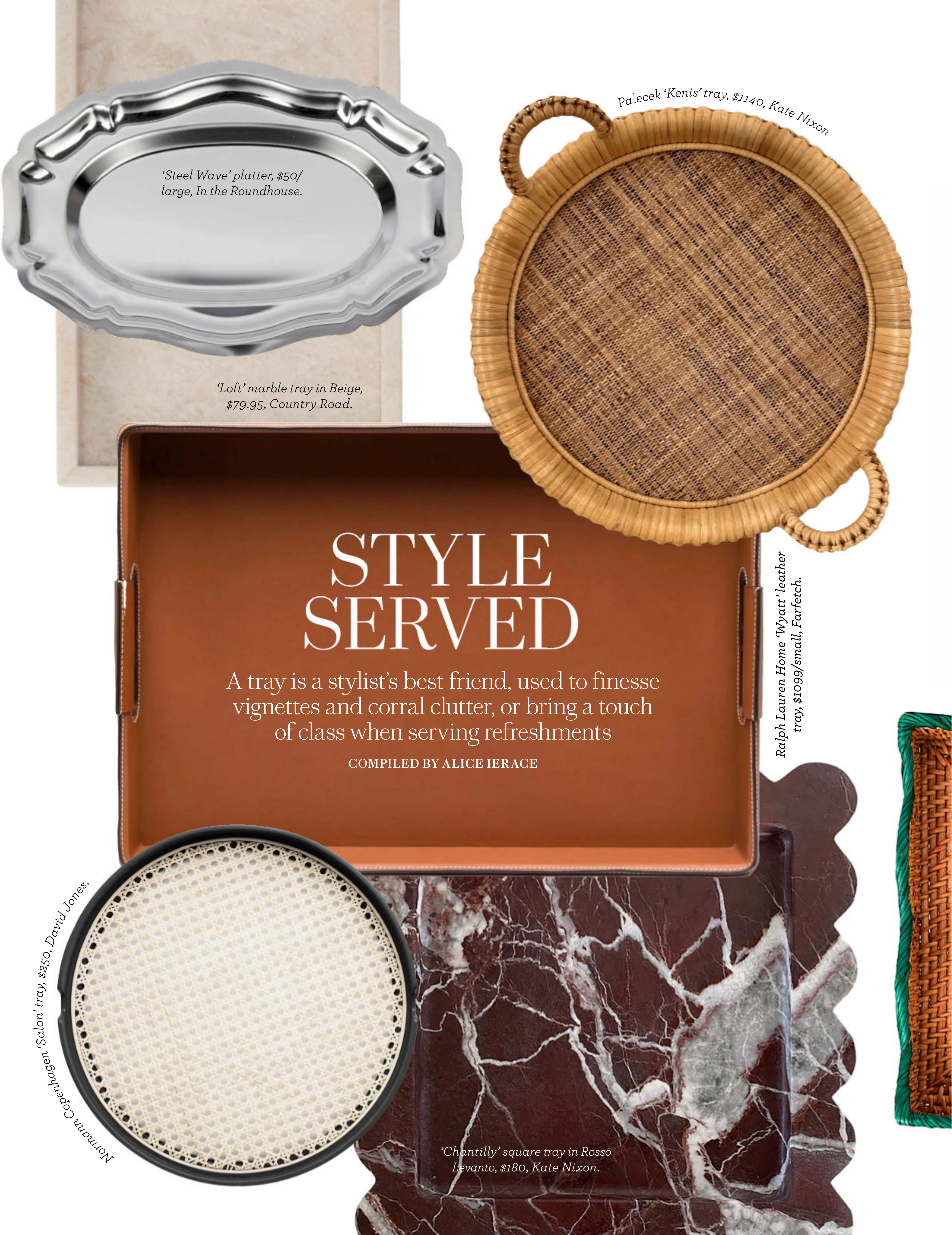
This page, from top Small ruffle **bolster** in velvet in Beetroot, $419/58cm x 18cm, Land Home. Taupe stripe and plum check **quilt**, $500/king, Society of Wanderers. 'Jodhpur' linen **cushion cover** in Red, $130/50cm x 50cm, Casa e Cucina. Wool tartan **blanket** in Winter, $185, Love After Love. Cushion made in 'Huntley' **fabric** in Moss, $161.50/m, Elliott Clarke Textiles, with Elsie **trim** in Serpent, $85/m, Inge Holst. 'Chuck' **cushion**, $69.95/50cm x 50cm, Kas. **Opposite page, from top** Cushion made in 'Glenmore' **fabric** in Moss, $161.50/m, Elliott Clarke Textiles with Brush Fringe **trim** in Ox Blood, $33.15/m, Inge Holst. Cushion made in 'Huntley' **fabric** in Moss, $161.50/m, Elliott Clarke Textiles, with Elsie **trim** in Serpent, $85/m, Inge Holst. Cushion made in 'Jinda' **fabric** in Eucalyptus, $96/m, James Dunlop Textiles. 'Allard' **ottoman** in Jewel Merlot, $840, Rachel Donath. All other items, as before. >



This page, from top *Small ruffle* **bolster** *in velvet in Beetroot, $419/58cm x 18cm, Land Home. Small ruffle* **bolster** *in Painted Gingham Indigo, $459/58cm x 18cm, Land Home. Bolster made in 'Glenmore'* **fabric** *in Moss and Saddle, $161.50/m, Elliott Clarke Textiles with Brush Fringe* **trim** *in Denim, $33.15/m, Inge Holst. Thin stripe chocolate* **bolster**, *$219/60cm x 20cm, Bonnie & Neil. 'Kennedy Axis'* **chair** *in Soft Moss velvet, $2485, Globe West. Arteriors 'Gabriella'* **box** *in walnut and brass, $3615, Boyd Blue. 'Imani' vintage multicolour* **rug**, *$1099/275cm x 185cm, Ruggable.* **Opposite, from left** *'Allard'* **ottoman** *in Jewel Mustard, $840, Rachel Donath. Warwick 'Bedford'* **fabric** *in Olive, $44/m, The Fabric Editors. 'Khodier'* **sideboard**, *$4995, Coco Republic. For similar* **cord**, *try Maria George cotton piping cord in Honey, $4/5m, Spotlight. 'Panther'* **vase**, *$12,899, Wedgwood. 'Antipodean' recycled wool* **blanket** *in Shiraz, $190, The Grampians Goods Co. 'Gabi'* **cushion** *in Toffee (top left), $59.95/50cm x 50cm, Kas. 'Fleur'* **cushion** *in Orange, $169/50cm x 50cm, Bonnie & Neil. 'Hotham'* **wallpaper** *in Chocolate Brown, $489.95/288cm x 240cm, Olive et Oriel. Terri Shannon 'Deux' double* **sconce** *in Manor Red and Aged Brass, $900, Bloomingdales Lighting. All other items, as before.* >

This page, from left *Italian floral* ***artwork*** *c1910, $245/17cm x 15cm (framed), Vintage Art Emporium. '1978'* ***vase*** *in Merlot Marble, $495, Greg Natale. Mohair* ***throw*** *in Bordeaux, $375, St Albans Textiles. Villeroy & Boch 'Verso'* ***vase*** *in Midnight Sky, $199, David Jones.* ***Opposite, from top*** *'Kento'* ***cushion*** *in Caramel, $69.95/50cm x 50cm, Kas. 'Marika'* ***cushion****, $69.95/60cm x 40cm, Freedom. 'Tranquil'* ***cushion*** *in Rust, $79/55cm x 55cm, Domayne. All other items, as before.* HB

SOFT MOHAIR THROWS
in warm COLOURS
BRIGHTEN UP COOL DAYS



STYLE SERVED

A tray is a stylist's best friend, used to finesse vignettes and corral clutter, or bring a touch of class when serving refreshments

COMPILED BY ALICE IERACE

'Steel Wave' platter, $50/large, In the Roundhouse.

Palecek 'Kenis' tray, $1140, Kate Nixon

'Loft' marble tray in Beige, $79.95, Country Road.

Ralph Lauren Home 'Wyatt' leather tray, $1099/small, Farfetch.

Normann Copenhagen 'Salon' tray, $250, David Jones.

'Chantilly' square tray in Rosso Levanto, $180, Kate Nixon.

'Lacquer' tray in Green, $79.95/large, Freedom.

'Tobi' travertine tray, $359, Trit House.

Bramble Co 'Newport Scalloped' tray in Vintage Fennel Green, $190, Maison Living.

'Linea' tray in Calacatta Viola, $179, Black Blaze.

'Rattan Scallop Edge' tray, $45.99, Marks and Spencer.

'Scalloped' tray in White/Beige, $60, In the Roundhouse.

Aytm 'Sessio' tray in Walnut/Gold, $299, Trit House.

HOW TO STYLE A TRAY

1 ***Trays are perfect for*** *every room in the home. Place on a console table near your entrance for keys, letters and mail; or arrange your perfumes on an elegant tray set on a bathroom vanity top or bedroom dresser.*

2 ***When styling with trays,*** *aim to follow the rule of three. A scented candle and small objet d'art are classic companions for a stack of magazines; a small vase of fresh blooms offers the finishing touch when serving up tea and cake for guests.*

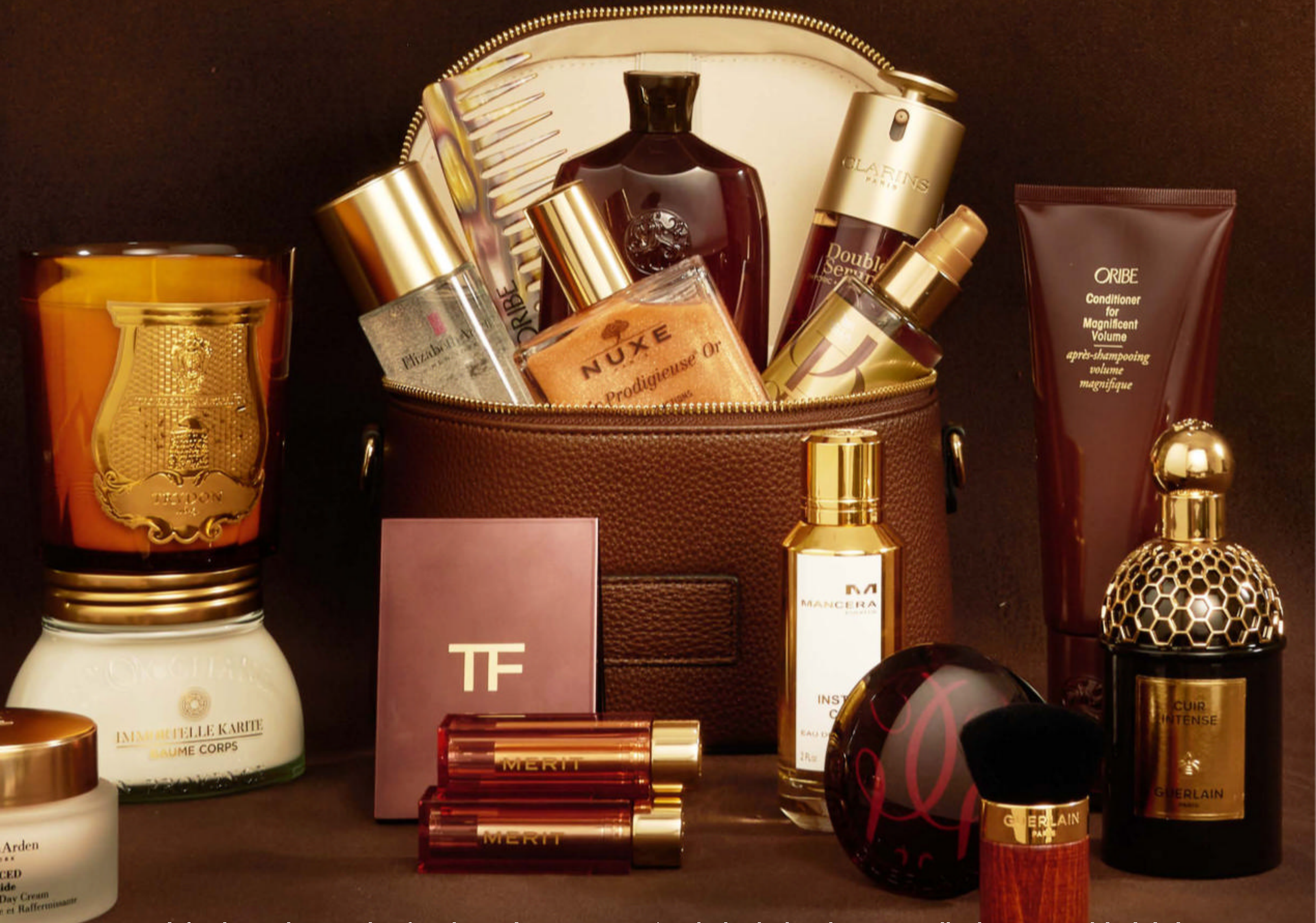
3 ***Trays in metal*** *and timber are ideal for serving beverages, cheese and nibbles. Softer materials like leather and rattan, or trays hewn from heavy stone such as marble, are better suited to styling purposes.*

Luxurious beauty

GOLDEN BROWN

Add a touch of glamour to your beauty routine with these gorgeous products in rich chocolate and golden hues

STYLING **KATRINA YAXLEY** | PHOTOGRAPHY **IMOGENE WALSH**



From left *Advanced Ceramide Lift and Firm* ***day cream,*** *$155/50ml, Elizabeth Arden. Immortelle Shea Pro-Youth* ***body balm,*** *$99/200ml, L'Occitane. Trudon Altaïr* ***candle,*** *$169/270g, Libertine Parfumerie. Tom Ford* ***Eye Colour*** *Quad in Hazy Sensuality, $160, David Jones. Signature Lip* ***lipsticks*** *in Ginger and Cabo, $42 each, Merit. Oval* ***toiletry case*** *in Espresso, $120, Etoile. Ceramide Micro Capsule Skin Replenishing Essence* ***toner,*** *$95/90ml, Elizabeth Arden. Oribe* ***comb,*** *$79, and Magnificent Volume* ***shampoo,*** *$78/250ml, both Mecca. Nuxe Huile Prodigieuse Or* ***dry oil,*** *$90/100ml, Sephora. Double* ***Serum,*** *$194/50ml, Clarins. Wella Oil Reflections* ***treatment,*** *$24.95/30ml, Lookfantastic. Mancera Instant Crush* ***EDP,*** *$279/120ml, Libertine Parfumerie. Guerlain Terracotta* ***Bronzing Powder,*** *$97, Kabuki* ***brush,*** *$100, and Absolus Allegoria Cuir Intense* ***EDP,*** *$364/125ml, all David Jones. Oribe Magnificent Volume* ***conditioner,*** *$83/200ml, Mecca.*

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Pictured: Hansgrohe 'Vivenis' Single-Lever Basin Mixer 250 without Waste Set in Chrome

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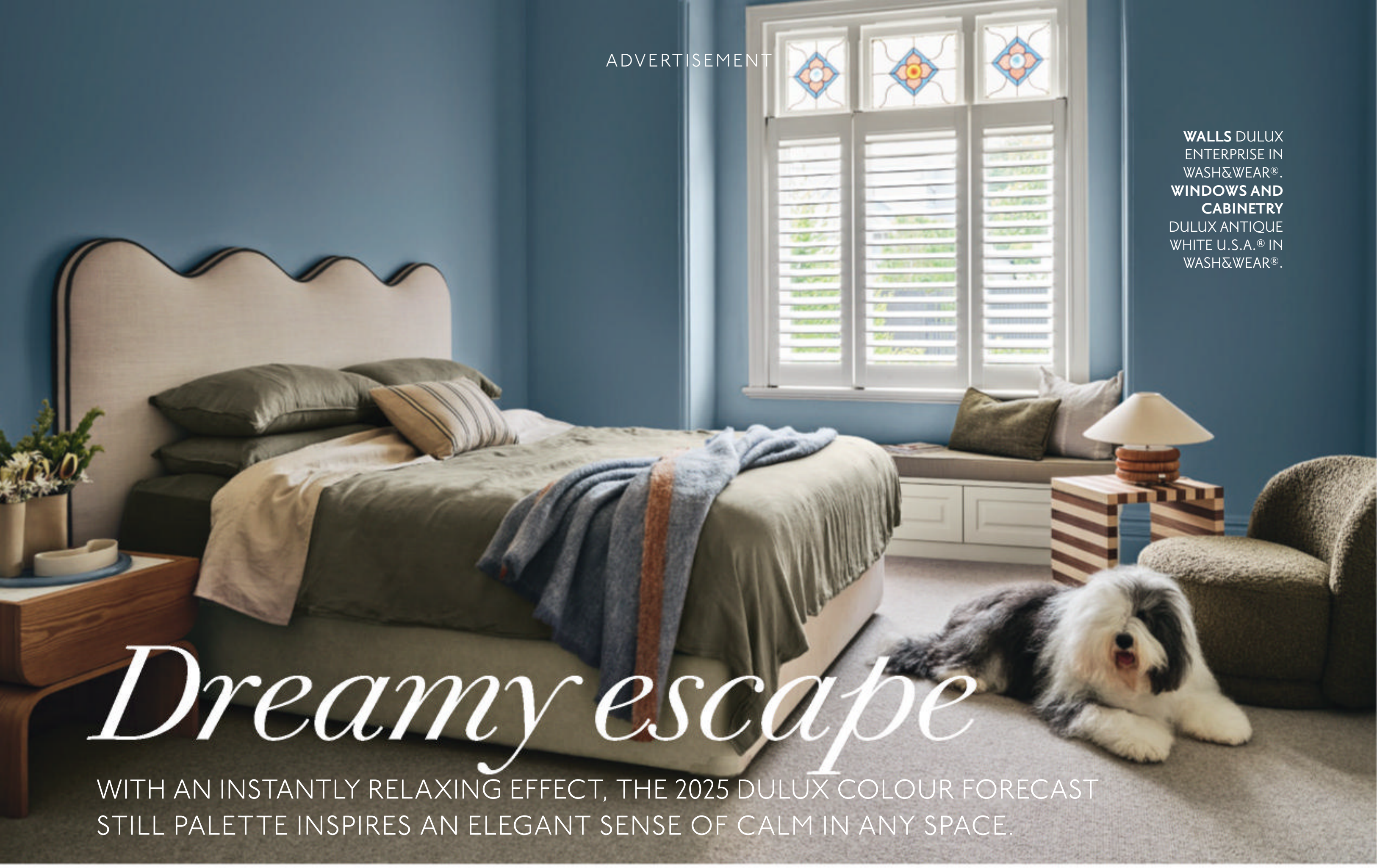

WALLS DULUX ENTERPRISE IN WASH&WEAR®. **WINDOWS AND CABINETRY** DULUX ANTIQUE WHITE U.S.A.® IN WASH&WEAR®.

Dreamy escape

WITH AN INSTANTLY RELAXING EFFECT, THE 2025 DULUX COLOUR FORECAST STILL PALETTE INSPIRES AN ELEGANT SENSE OF CALM IN ANY SPACE.

At the end of the day, our bedrooms offer a relaxing retreat and safe haven, so calming colours are an absolute must.

For Dulux Colour Manager Lauren Treloar, the Dulux Colour Forecast 2025 Still palette harnesses the quest for peace and tranquillity in a suite of colours inspired by nature.

"Dulux Still has an instantly calming effect that can create a nourishing and comforting environment, particularly in the bedroom or a quiet space like a study," she says.

"The palette is subdued, with warm grey emerging as an accent against brown-based neutrals and greens, blending with greyed-off and serene cool blues which look particularly at home in a bedroom such as the one above."

Tapping into our connection with nature, the serene muted colours evoke peace and a subtle sense of luxury.

NATURAL INSPIRATION

To style a truly restorative bedroom space inspired by this palette, think linens, wool throws and warm tones of timber and ceramics. Bring in extended colours of the palette through sheets and pillows; ceramics, stone, wood, organic cotton and hemp are also welcome additions. Soft natives such as eucalyptus and flannel flowers in unglazed ceramics or earthenware create the perfect finishing touch.

> *"The Still palette feels comforting and harmonious – it reflects the seasonal shift towards a slower pace of life as people retreat indoors for the cooler months."*
>
> *LAUREN TRELOAR*
> *Dulux Colour Manager*

WHY CHOOSE DULUX?

Renowned for inspiration, quality and finish, only Dulux paints guarantee a true-to-colour finish every time. Try the Still palette in your home with a Dulux sample pot.

Dulux

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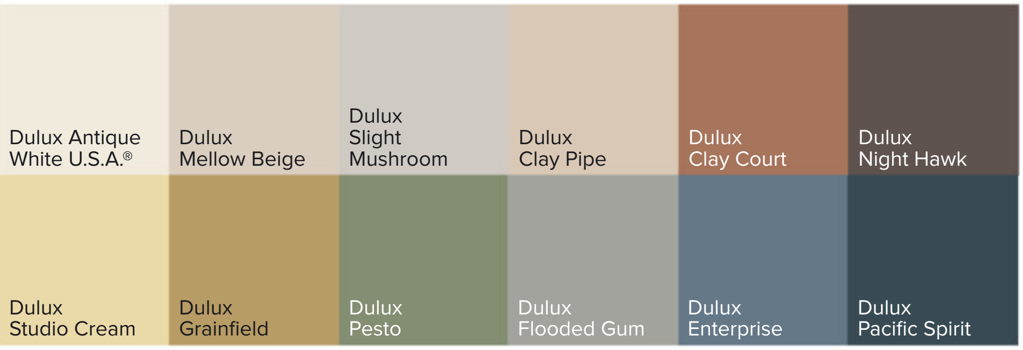

Dulux Antique White U.S.A.®	Dulux Mellow Beige	Dulux Slight Mushroom	Dulux Clay Pipe	Dulux Clay Court	Dulux Night Hawk
Dulux Studio Cream	Dulux Grainfield	Dulux Pesto	Dulux Flooded Gum	Dulux Enterprise	Dulux Pacific Spirit

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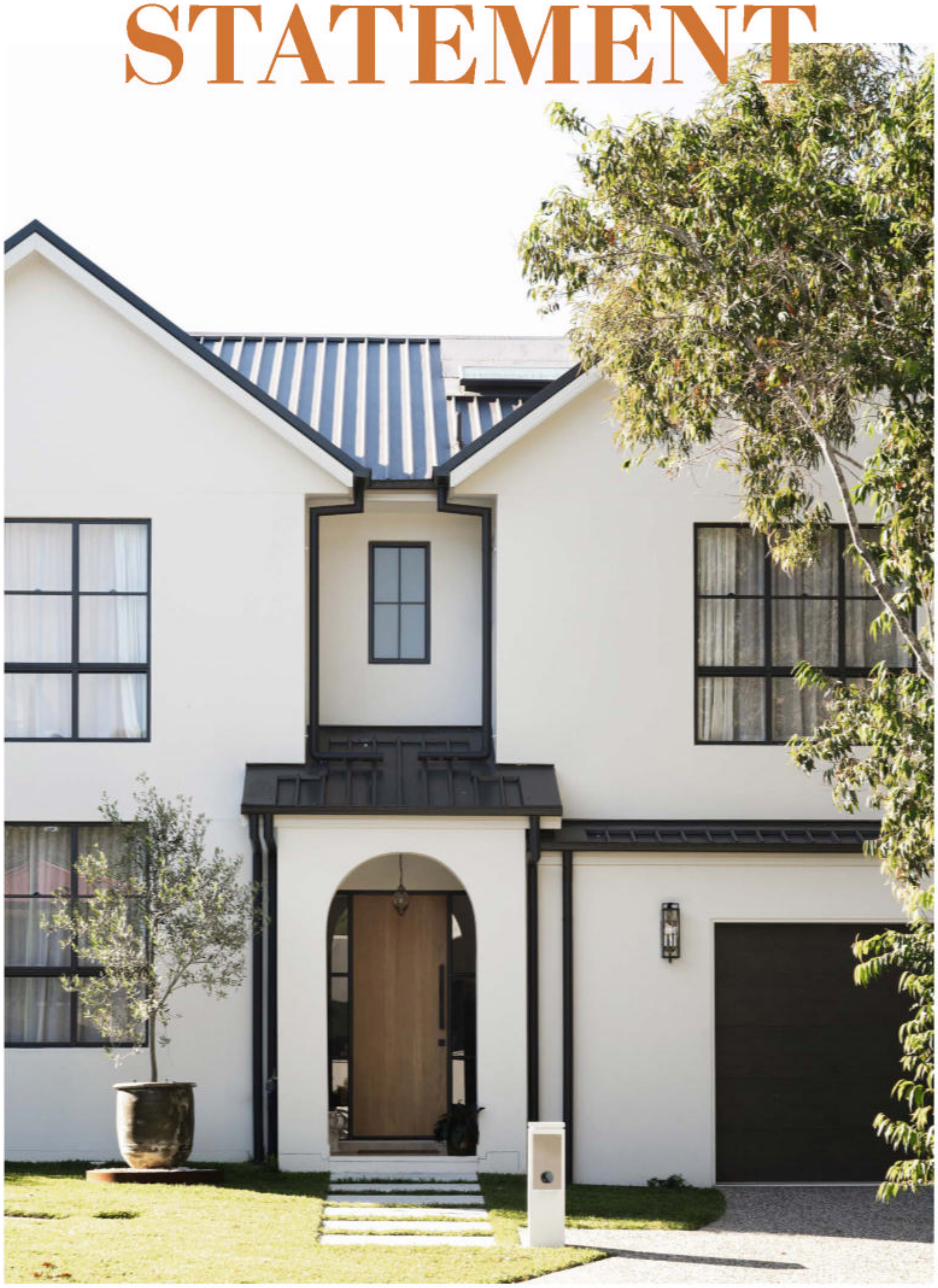
BEAUTIFUL HOMES

THE STORIES, STYLE AND LOVE THAT MAKE A HOME BEAUTIFUL

PHOTOGRAPHY HANNAH PUECHMARIN ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN

MISSION STATEMENT
PAGE 44
→

MISSION STATEMENT



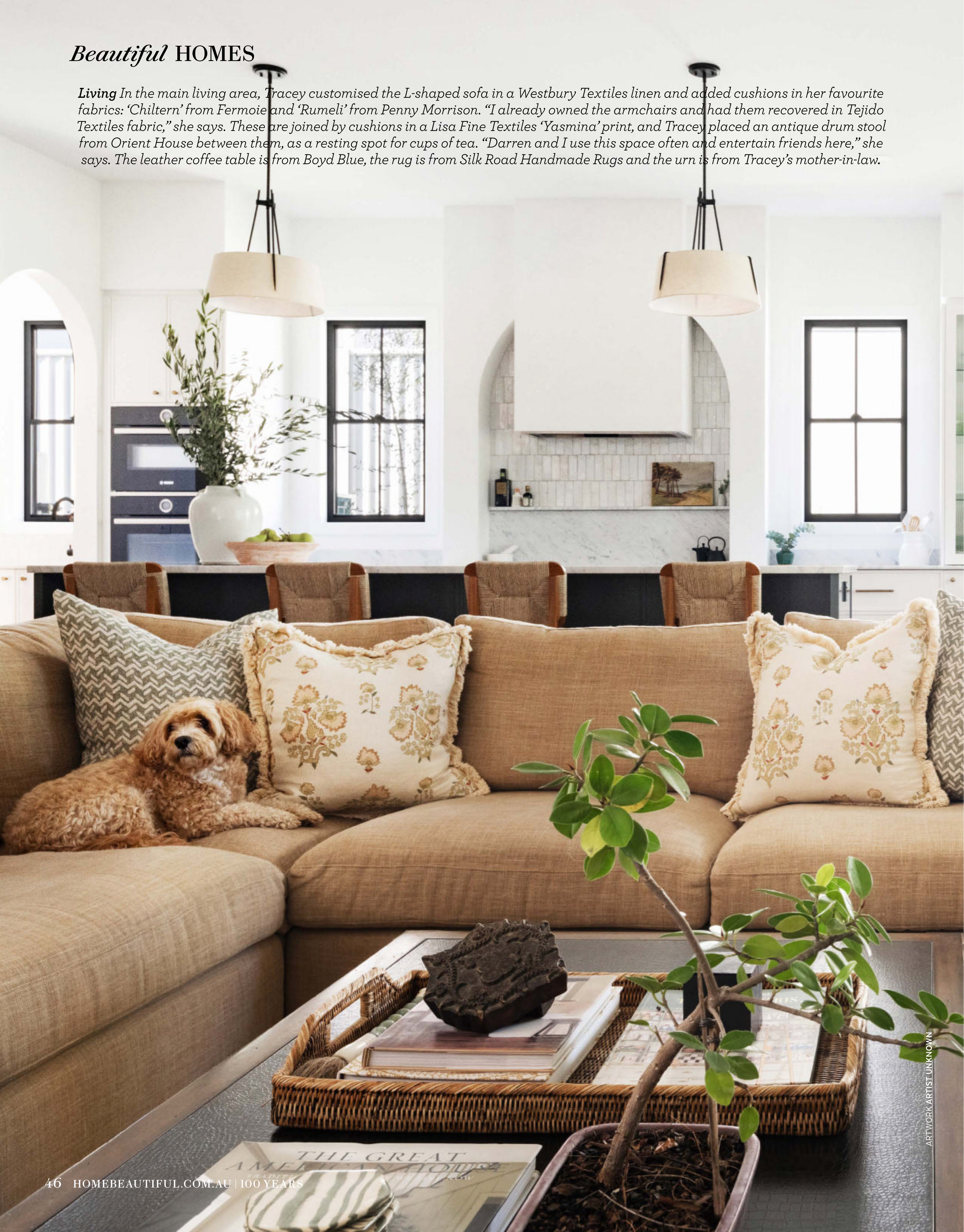
Inspired by the architecture of her travels, an interior designer welcomes Spanish Mission style and European elegance into her new Brisbane abode

STORY **JULIA FAIRLEY** | PHOTOGRAPHY **HANNAH PUECHMARIN**

ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) **ARTIST UNKNOWN** ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

LACK CHAMPAKA

Family affair *When interior designer Tracey Leeson started sketching plans for the Brisbane home where she lives with her husband and their three adult sons, the architecture of her travels inspired the design. "I love the Spanish Mission-style homes in LA and we've travelled to Italy and France, so it's a combination of those classic styles from places I love," she says. For Tracey, who founded Porch Light Interiors 18 years ago with her sister, Hayley Hayes, the project was a family affair – even Hayley's Cavoodle, Maple, was chief comfort tester in the living area (this page). Dulux White Exchange Half makes for a fresh facade (opposite), with Colorbond roofing in Monument.* >



Living *In the main living area, Tracey customised the L-shaped sofa in a Westbury Textiles linen and added cushions in her favourite fabrics: 'Chiltern' from Fermoie and 'Rumeli' from Penny Morrison. "I already owned the armchairs and had them recovered in Tejido Textiles fabric," she says. These are joined by cushions in a Lisa Fine Textiles 'Yasmina' print, and Tracey placed an antique drum stool from Orient House between them, as a resting spot for cups of tea. "Darren and I use this space often and entertain friends here," she says. The leather coffee table is from Boyd Blue, the rug is from Silk Road Handmade Rugs and the urn is from Tracey's mother-in-law.*

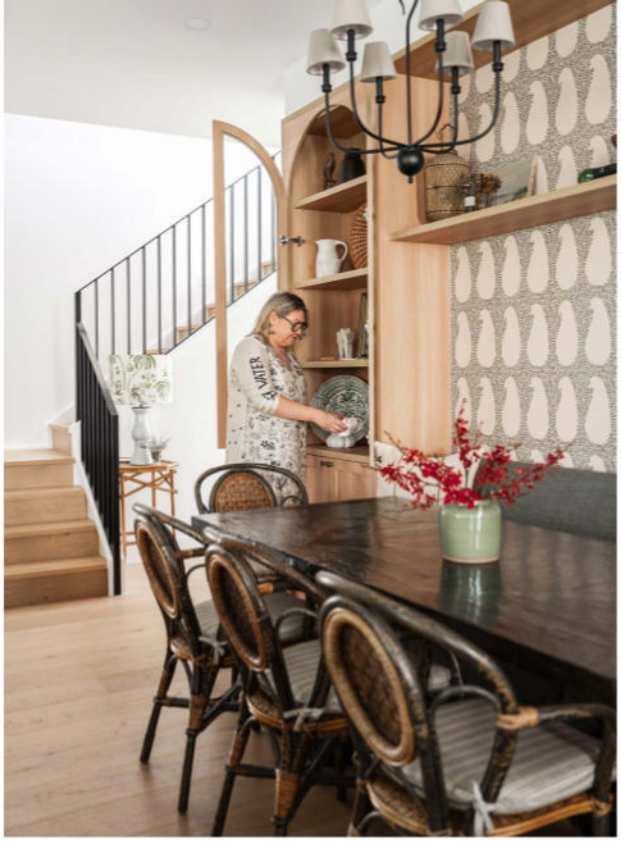
ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN

INSIDE STORY
Tracey & Darren's home

Who lives here?
Tracey Leeson, interior designer and co-founder of Porch Light Interiors, her husband Darren, an engineer, and their grown-up sons, Oscar, Cooper and Hunter.

Favourite spaces to relax at home?
Tracey: "I love the main living room and our bedroom. Darren built himself a beautiful workshop in the garage because he loves to do woodworking projects in his spare time. He's always tinkering with something and enjoys building cabinets or making things for me, like beautiful picture frames."

What are your weekend rituals?
"We love cooking together, playing board games and having family or friends over. Darren is an avid gardener and we make fresh pesto with basil from our garden." >

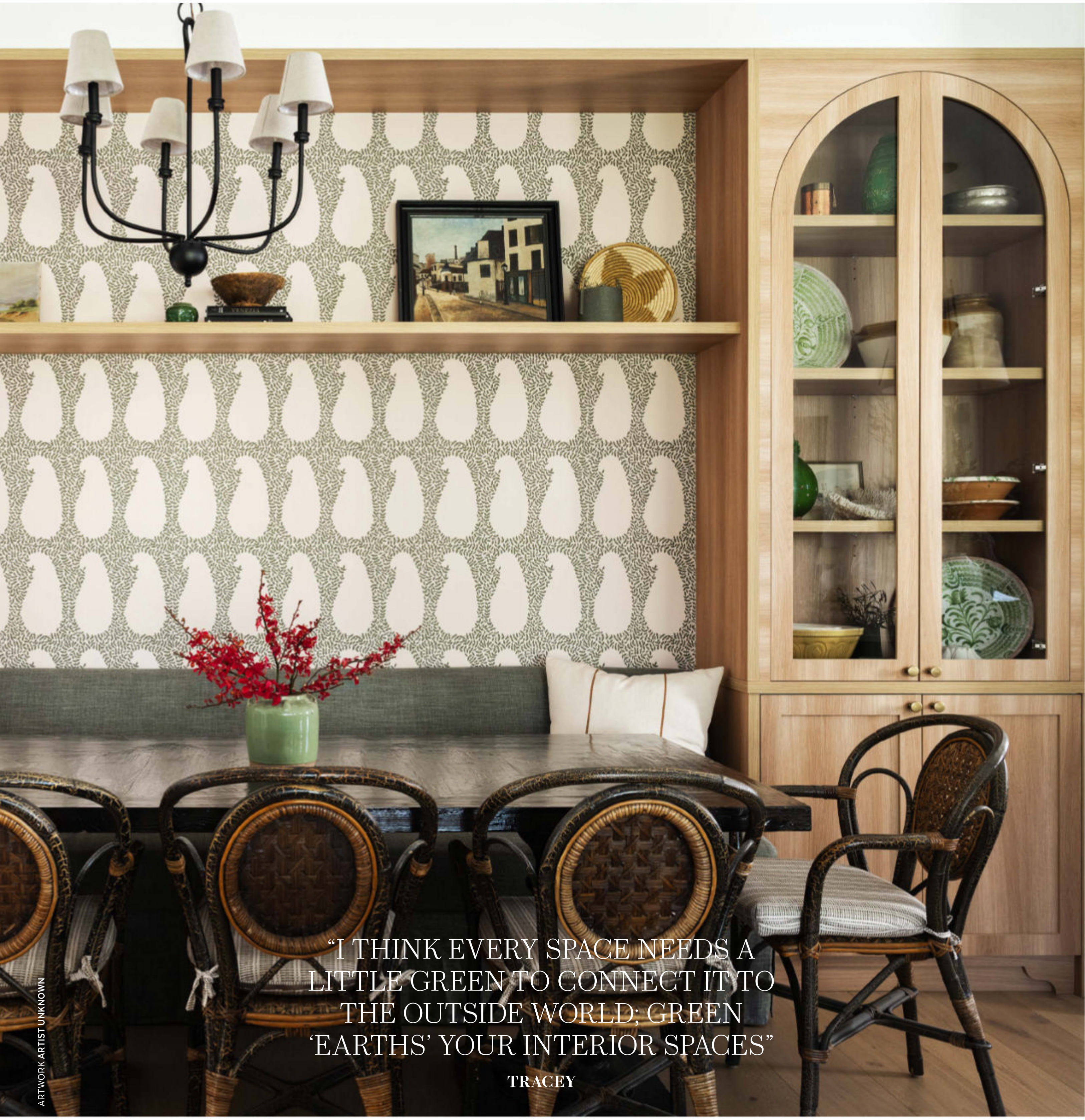


Creating a home from the ground up is what most interior designers dream of – to see their ideas translated from sketch to site. For Tracey Leeson, co-founder of Porch Light Interiors, the opportunity struck when she and her husband Darren bought a block of land in Brisbane. “The thing that appealed to me is that it was facing the parkland beside it, so it was really open and, because the houses around us don’t look upon us, very private,” she says.

Tracey quickly began drawing up plans and set about exploring concepts with builders in 2022. “We tried to go through a stock standard builder at the beginning to keep costs down, but they just kept coming back with things I didn’t like. In the end, we went with a custom builder and got them to design a basic concept that faced out to the park,” she says. “The design had the feeling of what I liked, so we ran with that and made alterations and changes, added in the detail and put in the archways because I wanted that European-style outlook.”

Tracey wove in elements from the Spanish Mission-style homes she loved in Los Angeles and the classical buildings that had captivated her on travels through France and Italy. The trick was to do it in a subtle, site-sensitive way so the new build blended beautifully with the Brisbane bushland. “I knew I wanted the home to have that Mediterranean kind of look, but I think you have to design for where you are as well,” she explains.

With the form decided, Tracey turned to the interiors. “I wanted three-metre ceilings downstairs and for all the areas to feel really elevated. I also wanted lots of classic windows, natural light and as many natural fibres



“I THINK EVERY SPACE NEEDS A LITTLE GREEN TO CONNECT IT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD; GREEN ‘EARTHS’ YOUR INTERIOR SPACES”

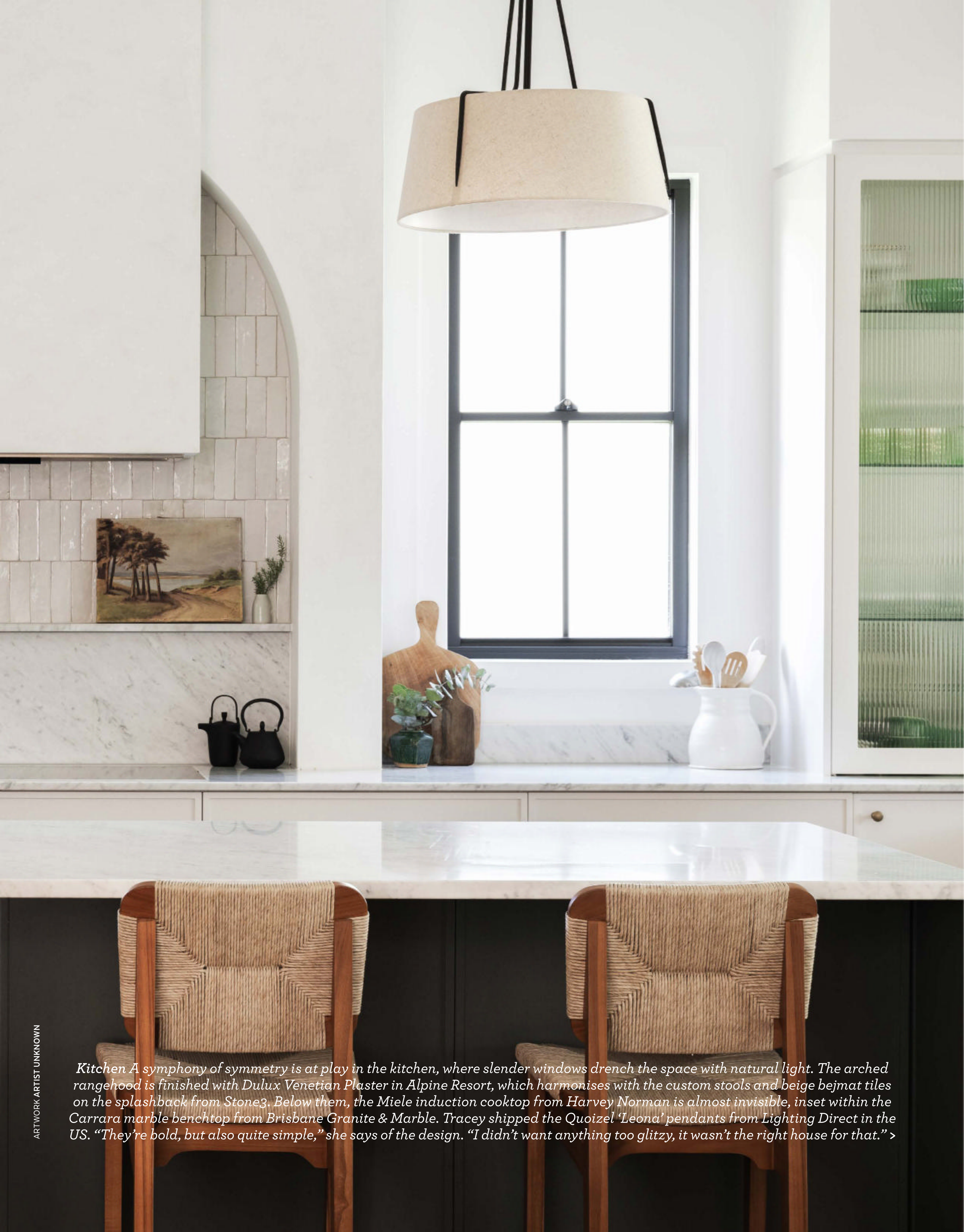
TRACEY

ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN

Dining *“I have always loved block-print fabrics and wallpapers,” shares Tracey (pictured), who chose ‘Jangal’ by Virginia Kraft to paper a wall in the dining area. “The colour of this was perfect with the green leaf pattern in a paisley shape and the soft, creamy background.” Long dinner parties unfold here, so Tracey added custom seat cushions in a Tejido Textiles fabric to the vintage dining chairs and used a Westbury Textiles linen on the banquette. The old pedestal dining table was revived with a coat of Feast Watson ‘Black Japan’ stain.* **>**

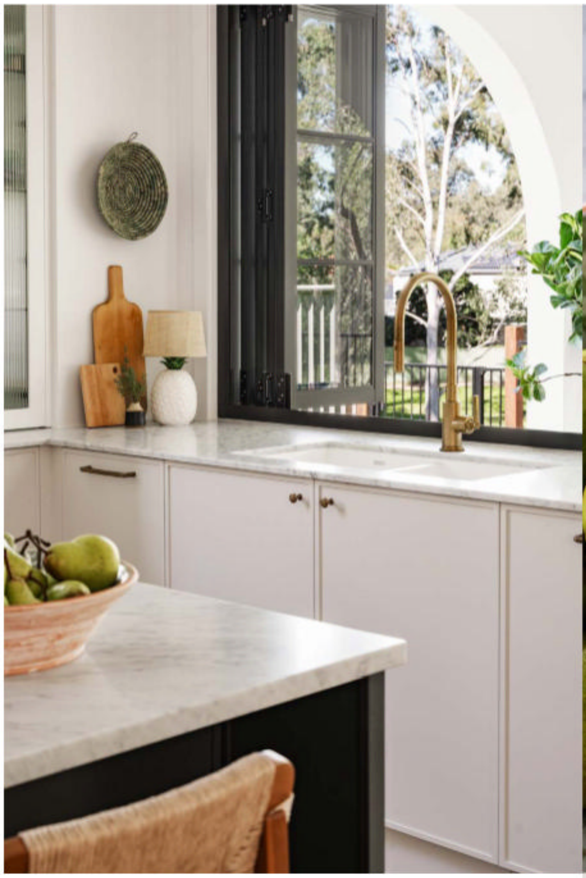
"I WANTED GOOD QUALITY LIGHTING, BUT NOTHING OVER THE TOP. THESE ARE QUITE SIMPLE PIECES, YET THEY BRING IN BEAUTIFUL METAL AND ARE NEUTRAL"

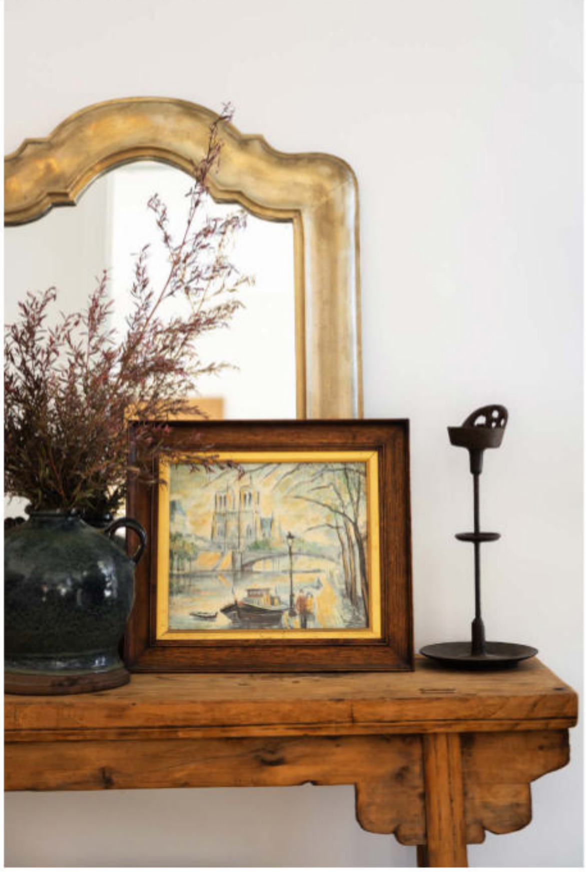
TRACEY



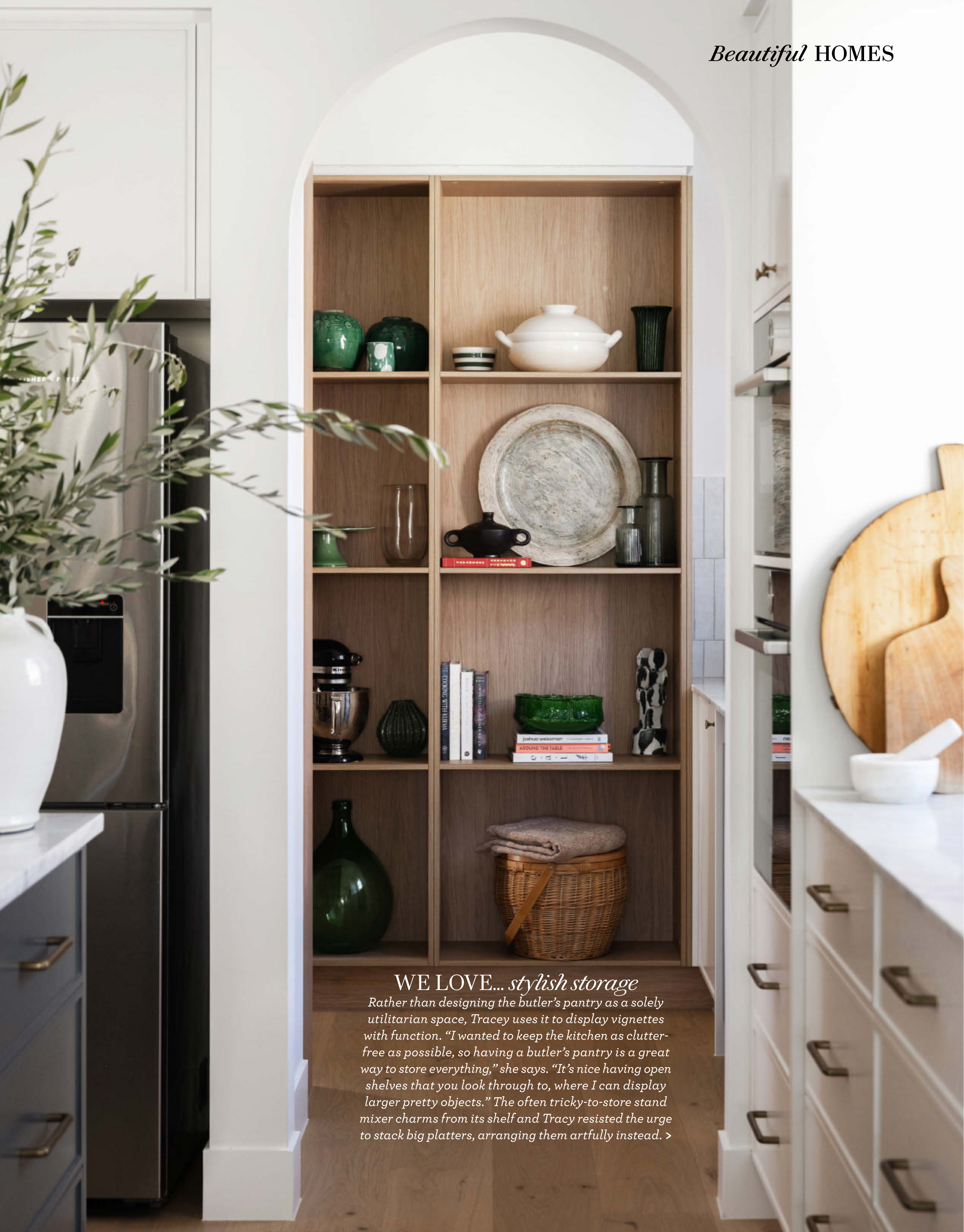
Kitchen *A symphony of symmetry is at play in the kitchen, where slender windows drench the space with natural light. The arched rangehood is finished with Dulux Venetian Plaster in Alpine Resort, which harmonises with the custom stools and beige bejmat tiles on the splashback from Stone3. Below them, the Miele induction cooktop from Harvey Norman is almost invisible, inset within the Carrara marble benchtop from Brisbane Granite & Marble. Tracey shipped the Quoizel 'Leona' pendants from Lighting Direct in the US. "They're bold, but also quite simple," she says of the design. "I didn't want anything too glitzy, it wasn't the right house for that."* >

ARTWORK **ARTIST UNKNOWN**



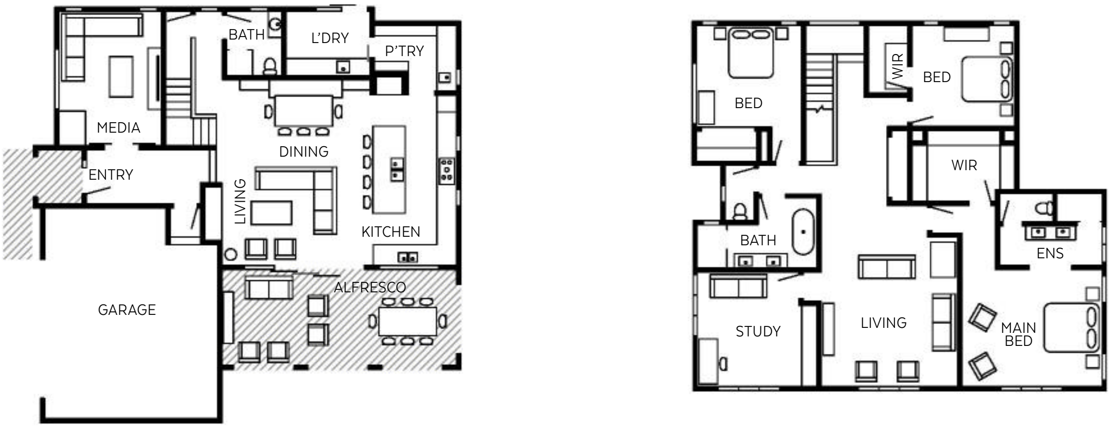


Kitchen *Contrasting tones unfold in the family's kitchen (top left & top right), where the island is defined in deep Porter's Paints Highlands. The remaining joinery is in Porter's Paints Washed Linen and has a slim Shaker profile, with knobs and pulls from Hepburn Hardware. Tracey lined the layout with "a million drawers" and ample cupboards for plenty of storage space, plus open shelving in the butler's pantry (opposite). "I still have some kitchen drawers with nothing in them, so I'm pretty excited about that," she shares. "It means I can buy new things when I'm travelling, as I have room to put everything away when I get home." Tracey opted for a Raw Brass finish on the 'Molise' mixer from Designer Tapware Co and bought all the kitchen appliances, from the Bosch wall ovens to the Fisher & Paykel fridge, at Harvey Norman.* ***Entry*** *An antique console from Watertiger greets the family at the entry (bottom right). It holds an old mirror, a vintage artwork from Dirty Janes in Bowral, NSW, and a vase from a second-hand store in Singapore.*



WE LOVE... *stylish storage*

Rather than designing the butler's pantry as a solely utilitarian space, Tracey uses it to display vignettes with function. "I wanted to keep the kitchen as clutter-free as possible, so having a butler's pantry is a great way to store everything," she says. "It's nice having open shelves that you look through to, where I can display larger pretty objects." The often tricky-to-store stand mixer charms from its shelf and Tracy resisted the urge to stack big platters, arranging them artfully instead. >



FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

BATH
L'DRY
P'TRY
MEDIA
DINING
ENTRY
LIVING
KITCHEN
ALFRESCO
GARAGE
WIR
BED
BED
WIR
BATH
ENS
STUDY
LIVING
MAIN BED

***Main bedroom** "Hayley gave me the confidence to say 'Yes, that's going to work'," says Tracey of her sister, who helped select the fabrics and window treatments, including the blockout curtains and blinds in Mokum linen in the couple's bedroom (this page). Hayley's pooch, Maple, gives her paw stamp of approval to the armchair, upholstered in Cloth & Print Co fabric. **Bathroom** In the family bathroom (opposite, top left & bottom right), the Carrara marble-topped vanity finished in Dulux Dollar offers plenty of storage. Tracey created chequerboard flooring with 'Maku Light' and 'Maku Dark' tiles from Groove Tile & Stone. For a similar mirror, try Middle of Nowhere 'Pierre' mirror. **Hunter's bedroom** A Mayvn Interiors bedhead, Roman blind in Mokum linen and a vintage cushion cosy up Hunter's bedroom (opposite, top right).*

and materials as possible," she says. Despite their oldest son, Oscar, living out of home at the time, Tracey made sure he, Cooper and Hunter each had their own rooms, plus a living area to host friends. For Darren, she carved out an office and carpentry workshop for his hobby.

By day, Tracey poured her attention into her clients' homes, working alongside her sister Hayley Hayes and their Porch Light Interiors team, and by night, she drew up plans for her own home, often working late into the evenings. "By the end, it was a pretty busy time," she admits. "I was making a million decisions and had a bit of decision fatigue, and that's where having the team was so helpful – their perspective reinspired me to look at the project through fresh eyes and get back on track."

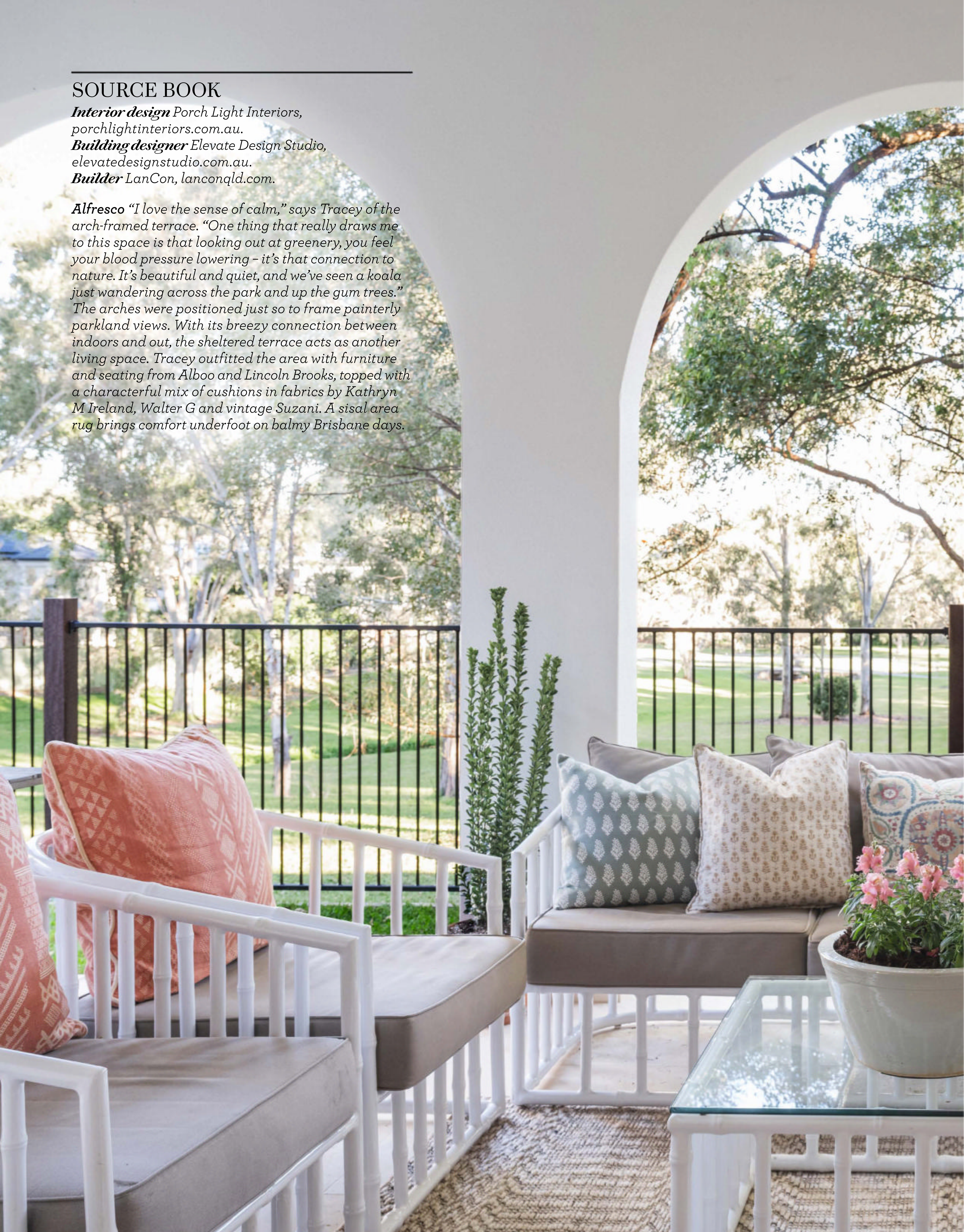
In true sister act style, Tracey credits Hayley with stepping forward when she yearned to take a step back. "I relied on her with the furnishings; she helped me pull all the fabrics together," she says. "We work really well together – we have similar ideas and different strengths."

The family is now enjoying the fruits of this labour of love. Even Oscar moved back after the build. For Tracey, being both designer and client sweetened the result – she now gets to walk through the rooms of her reveries, experiencing them, at last, in a home of her own. HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

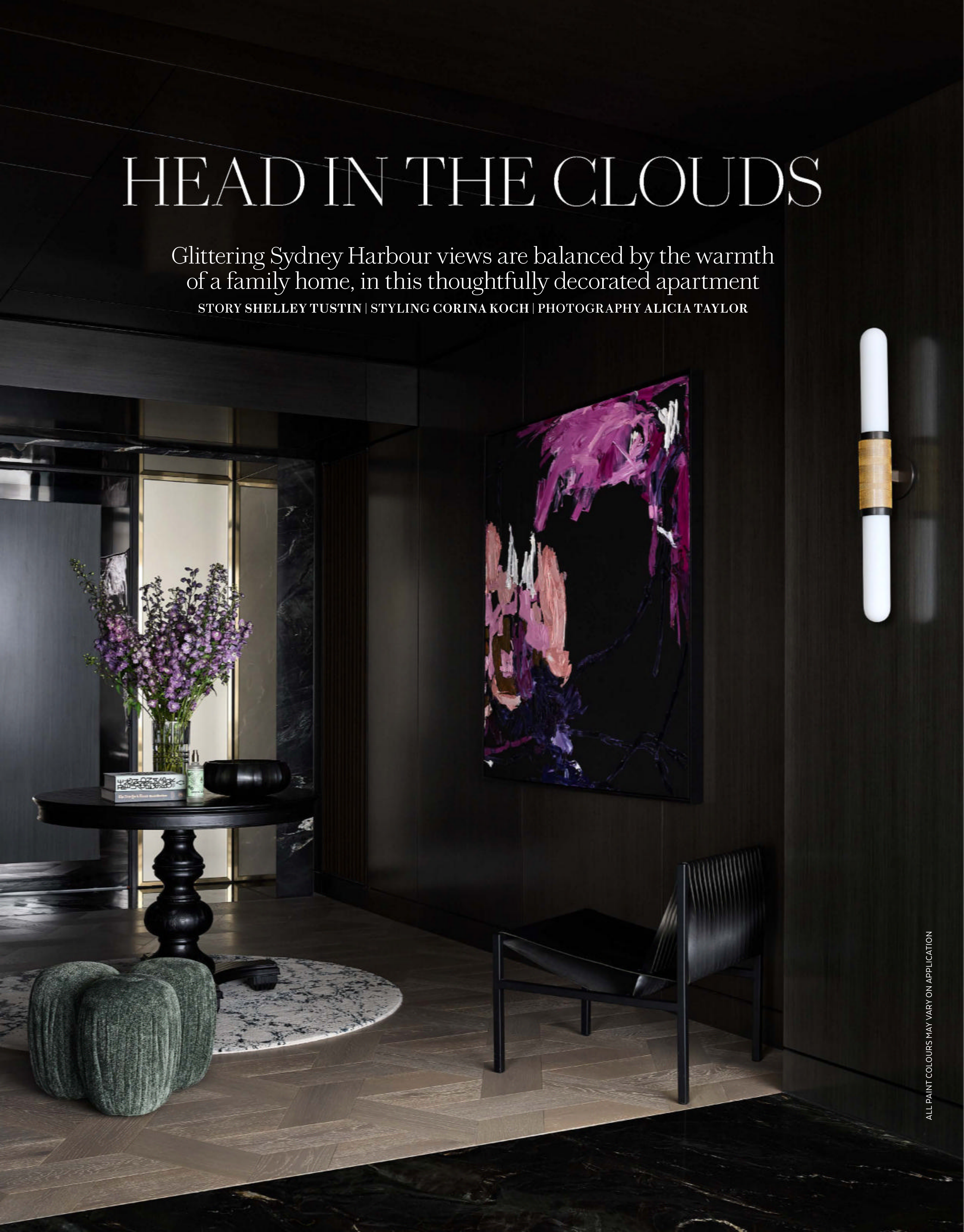
ARTWORKS **ARTISTS UNKNOWN**

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Porch Light Interiors, porchlightinteriors.com.au.*
Building designer *Elevate Design Studio, elevatedesignstudio.com.au.*
Builder *LanCon, lanconqld.com.*



Alfresco *"I love the sense of calm," says Tracey of the arch-framed terrace. "One thing that really draws me to this space is that looking out at greenery, you feel your blood pressure lowering – it's that connection to nature. It's beautiful and quiet, and we've seen a koala just wandering across the park and up the gum trees." The arches were positioned just so to frame painterly parkland views. With its breezy connection between indoors and out, the sheltered terrace acts as another living space. Tracey outfitted the area with furniture and seating from Alboo and Lincoln Brooks, topped with a characterful mix of cushions in fabrics by Kathryn M Ireland, Walter G and vintage Suzani. A sisal area rug brings comfort underfoot on balmy Brisbane days.*



HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Glittering Sydney Harbour views are balanced by the warmth of a family home, in this thoughtfully decorated apartment

STORY SHELLEY TUSTIN | STYLING CORINA KOCH | PHOTOGRAPHY ALICIA TAYLOR

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

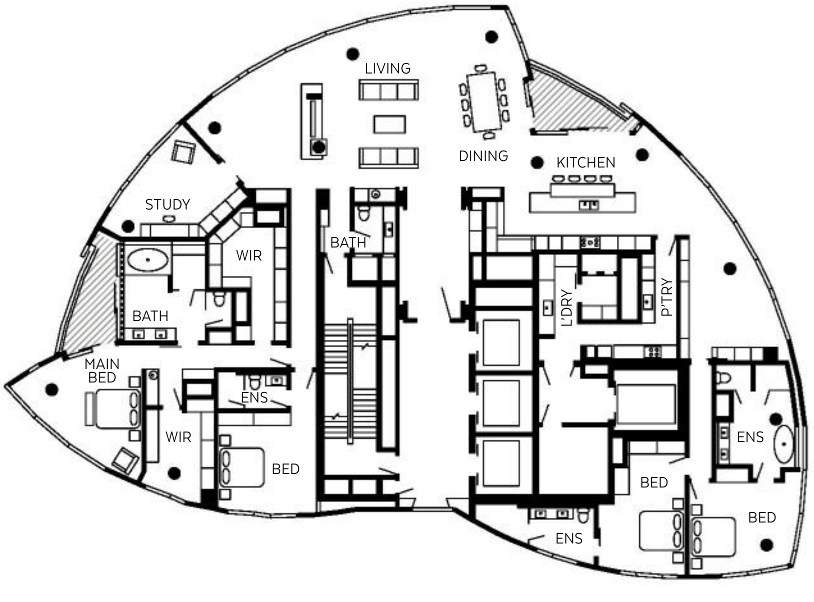
INSIDE STORY

Melanie & Andrew's home

Who lives here? *Melanie and Andrew, two of their three adult children, plus three dogs and a cat.*
What is your favourite space? *Melanie: "We have three lounge areas and all the sofas are super comfortable. I'm normally on one of them reading."*
Describe your decorating style? *"I like colour and patterns, rich jewel tones. I love books, so there are a lot of books."*

Sky high *With stunning Sydney views, the appeal of this apartment is clear. But for homeowner Melanie, the views are secondary to the priceless joy of a welcoming family home for herself, husband Andrew and two of their children. At the entry (opposite), a Kerry Armstrong artwork pops against dark panelling. Articolo 'Scandal' wall sconces cast a glow over the custom Robyn Cosgrove rug, green ottoman by Dimitri Vargas and DesignByThem 'DL' lounge chair. The seamless style continues in the living area (below). >*

FLOOR PLAN

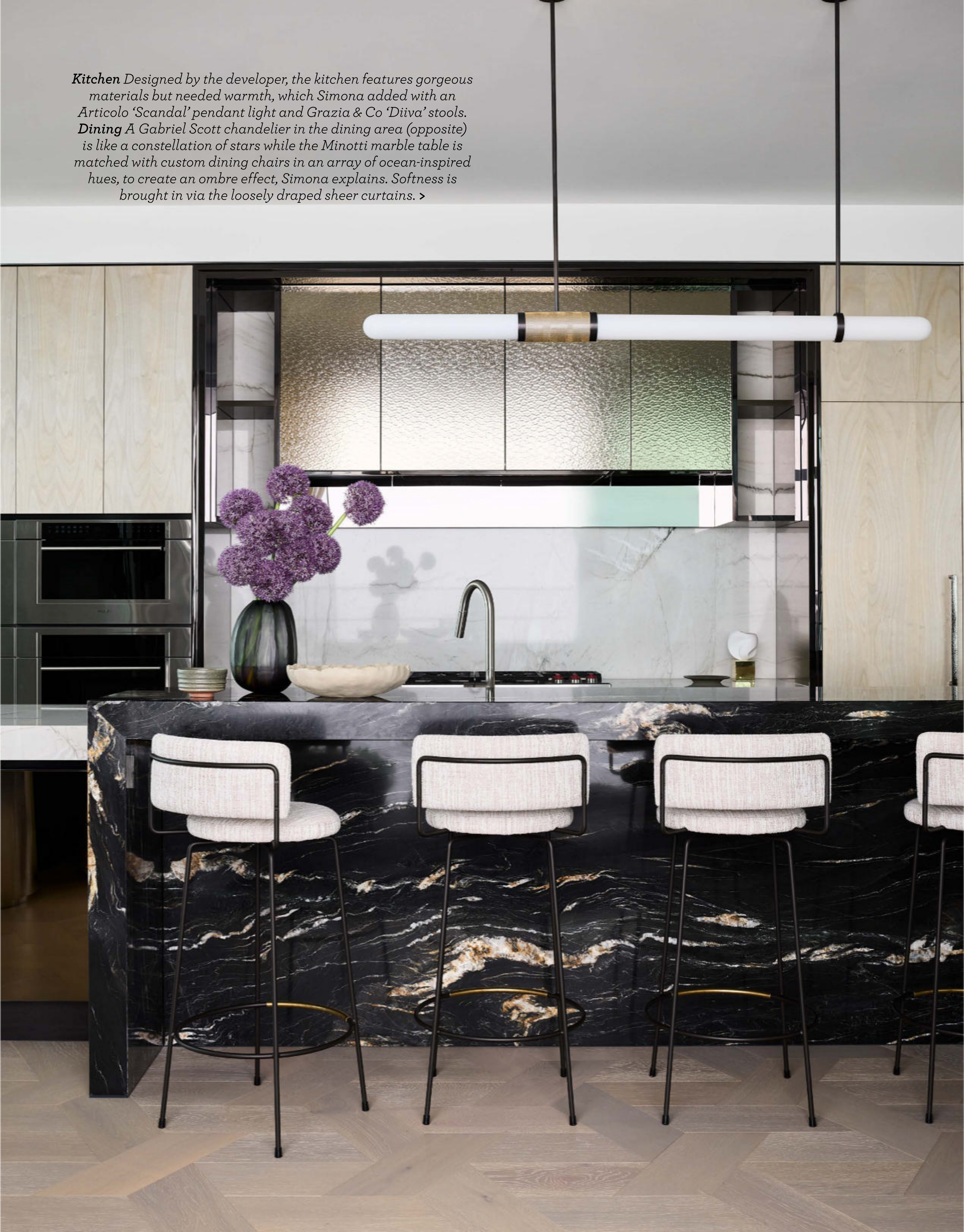


The move to this cloud-kissed abode marked a massive change for Melanie, her husband Andrew, and their family. Their previous dwelling, a freestanding home with large gardens, had been a beautiful place to raise their children, but with an emptying nest – one of their three children has already flown, while the other two are fully feathered young adults – they were beginning to rattle around its generous spaces.

They wanted to feel embraced by their home again – and for their children to feel safe when Melanie and Andrew are out of town. But most of all, they wanted a home that encouraged connection. "I felt like the kids would come home and disappear upstairs and I'd never get to see them. Now, we're all living together in one space and I get to see them more. The kitchen is central to the apartment and I love to cook, so the kids, when they're not working, are always around me," Melanie says.

While apartment living hadn't previously been on the cards, this is no ordinary flat. Having started to explore lock-up-and-leave options, they checked out one of the larger apartments in this building for a lark. "We walked in and we were blown away. The ceilings are higher and the space is massive. We knew it was going to be our new home," says Melanie. Occupying a whole floor in the building's loftiest heights, the apartment enjoys views to make even the birds envious, capturing not only twinkling water views, but the ever-changing drama of Sydney's skies.

The developer-designed interiors were a tasteful neutral blank canvas, but ripe for reinvention. "It felt very hotel-like on the inside. We needed to put our own stamp on it and make it feel a bit softer," says Melanie. "To have it feel like more of a family home was important to me, because there is a functioning family living here." To achieve this, she brought in interior designer Simona Giacomazzi of Si by Simona, who had worked with Melanie on a previous home. "I have really enjoyed working with this client. She enjoys different ideas and is open to trying things that may not have



Kitchen *Designed by the developer, the kitchen features gorgeous materials but needed warmth, which Simona added with an Articolo 'Scandal' pendant light and Grazia & Co 'Diiva' stools.* **Dining** *A Gabriel Scott chandelier in the dining area (opposite) is like a constellation of stars while the Minotti marble table is matched with custom dining chairs in an array of ocean-inspired hues, to create an ombre effect, Simona explains. Softness is brought in via the loosely draped sheer curtains.* >

been done before, and pushing the design envelope, some of which most clients would be too scared to go through with."

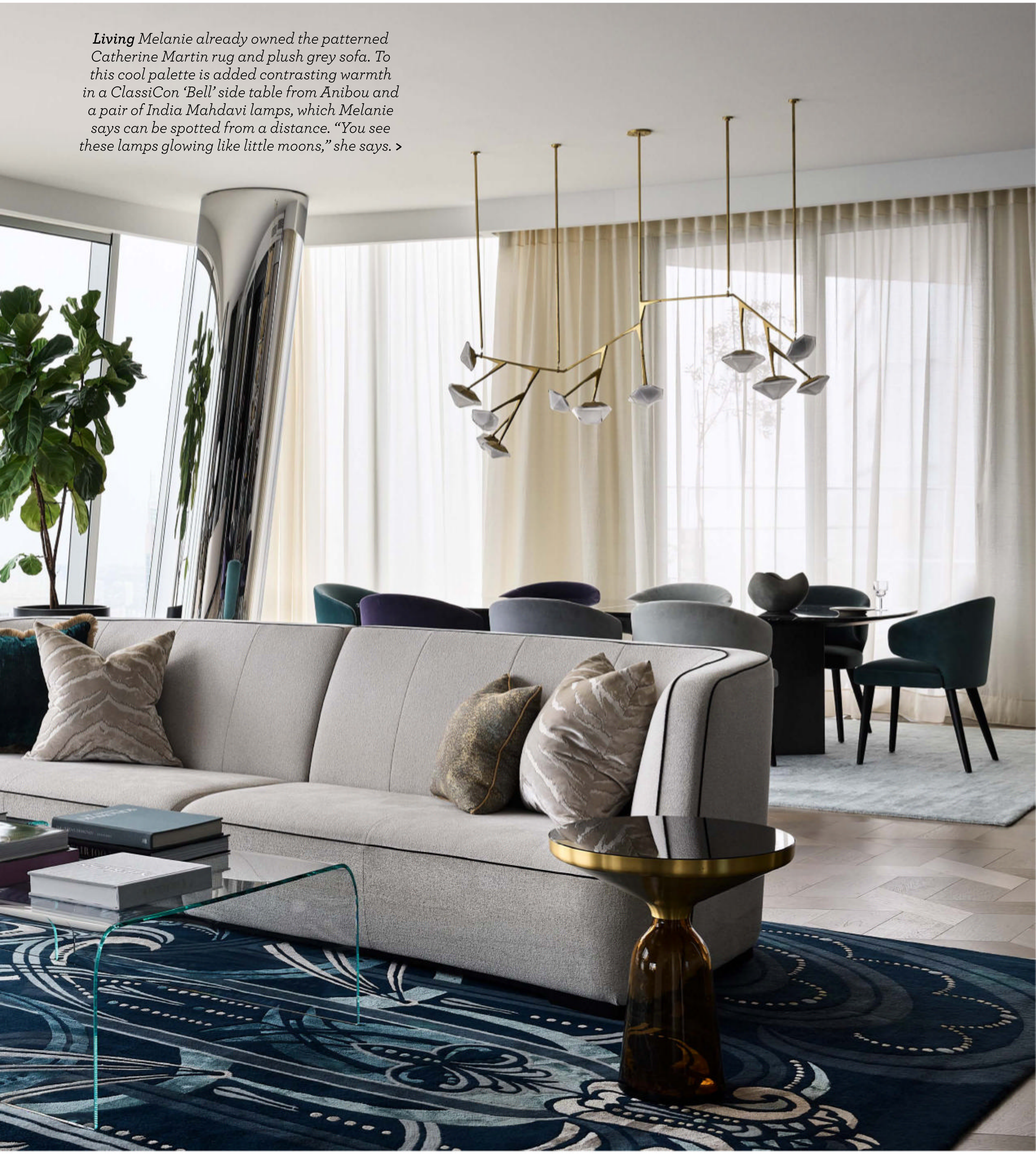
Dream client and dream location aside, Simona says the apartment wasn't the easiest canvas. "There were a lot of different types of stone, and these large chrome structural poles throughout the apartment. Making those existing materials work with the soft palette we were trying to bring in was tricky, and we had to consider them every step of the way."

Adding warmth was priority one, so the marble and other hard surfaces are balanced by textured wallpapers and velvety fabrics. The chrome structural poles are softened by context in the living spaces, where they're crowded out by floaty drapes, luxurious furnishings and plush rugs, while in the main bedroom, the pole is actually wrapped in a faux shagreen wallcovering. The material palette celebrates the sky-high location, with the jewel tones Melanie loves skewed towards the fresh greens and sapphire blues of Sydney's natural landscape. "We're not trying to compete with the outside by having something very stark and very heavy. We wanted to live with all of those beautiful colours inside as well," says Melanie.

In every facet of the redesign, there's an emphasis on connection. "That was a factor in everything we did – having communal spaces, sofas to be facing each other so you could communicate, having a large dining table to allow for the family to sit around," says Simona. Even material choices reflect this philosophy; while the fabrics are luxe and tactile, they're also chosen to be forgiving for everyday use and the touch of tiny grandchildren. "You can tell that there's a family living here," says Melanie. "It's a little bit chaotic, but it's a beautiful chaos!" HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

PEARL NECKLACE
SWANS

__Living__ Melanie already owned the patterned Catherine Martin rug and plush grey sofa. To this cool palette is added contrasting warmth in a ClassiCon 'Bell' side table from Anibou and a pair of India Mahdavi lamps, which Melanie says can be spotted from a distance. "You see these lamps glowing like little moons," she says. >

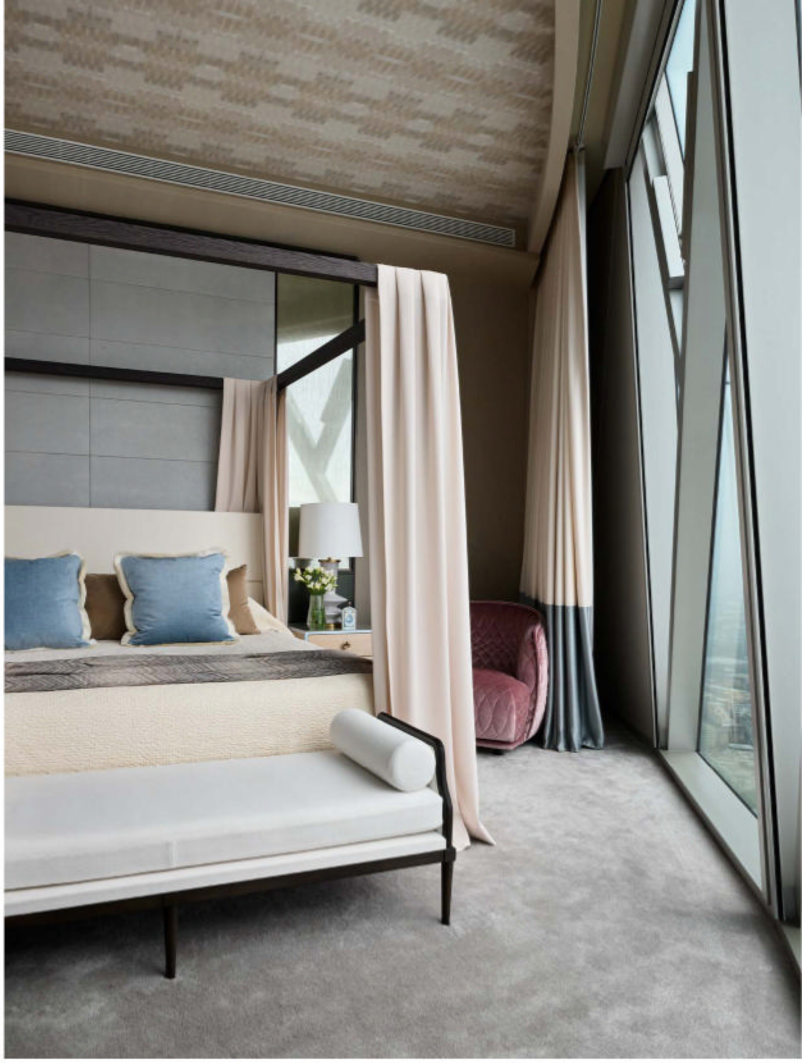


Butler's pantry *This space (top left & opposite) is less of a butler's pantry than a 'butler's kitchen', featuring all the appliances and bench space needed for cooking. Given how much time is spent in here – Melanie loves to cook and can happily spend days preparing for a big family event – they wanted to make the space fun. Melanie chose the Gucci 'Heron' wallpaper, and its warm pink tones are matched with walls and ceilings painted in Porter's Paints limewash in Nude.* ***Bathroom*** *Like the kitchen, the bathroom (top right) was designed by the developer and the luxurious materials just required some added touches, such as flowers, to soften the look and create a 'lived in' look.* ***Living/Dining*** *The open-plan living and dining areas (bottom left) are each grounded by an area rug. The blues and greens in the rugs, cushions and dining chairs reflect the hues of Sydney Harbour that can be seen out the windows.* **>**

“THE REFRESH WAS TO GIVE THE APARTMENT A WARM AND ‘HOMEY’ FEELING”

SIMONA, INTERIOR DESIGNER

> “THERE’S A LOT OF LIGHT BECAUSE WE’RE SURROUNDED BY GLASS, SO THERE’S LOTS OF BEAUTIFUL GLASS AND REFLECTIVE SURFACES IN THE APARTMENT”
>
> **MELANIE, HOMEOWNER**

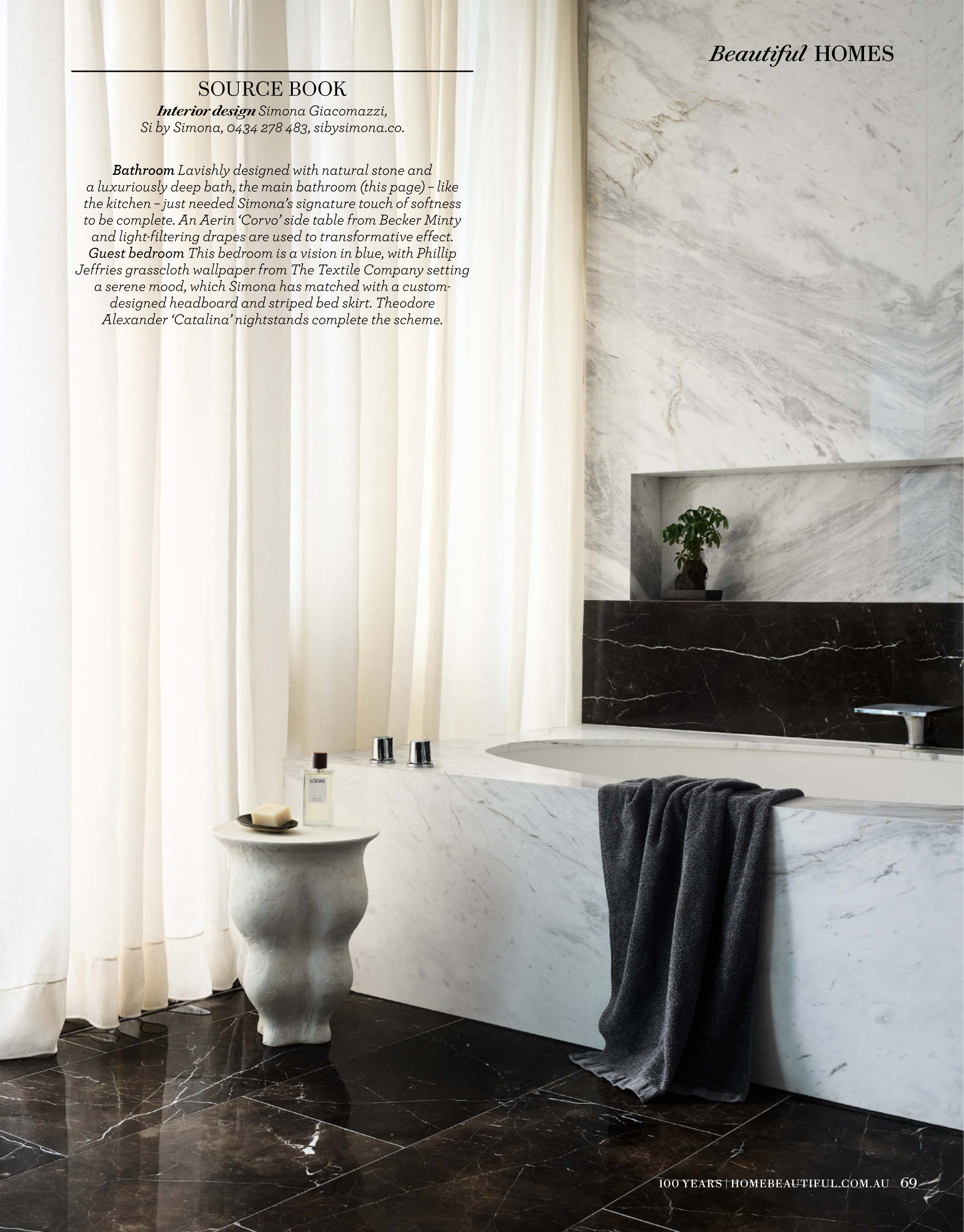


WE LOVE...
a patterned ceiling

Lavish textures create a cocooning feeling in the main bedroom, with three different wallpapers used, including silk Phillip Jeffries wallpaper from The Textile Company on the walls, and a faux shagreen wallcovering (unseen) wrapping a structural pole. But the most striking is the Armani 'Casa' wallpaper from South Pacific Fabrics, which Simona has taken to the ceiling! "The client loves art and is a big art collector, so I wanted to create the feeling for her, while she's lying in bed, that there's almost art on the ceiling."

Main bedroom *While layered textures are used throughout the home, this design trick is taken to the next level in the main bedroom, which is truly a sanctuary in the sky. "It's the most beautiful room. Every time I walk in there, I just pinch myself," says Melanie. The draped four-poster bed – designed by Simona and made by Bober Furniture – is the star of the show, layered with a Missoni throw and custom blue velvet cushions. Against a backdrop of silk Phillip Jeffries wallpaper, the room is completed with custom-made bedside tables (also by Bober Furniture), Christopher Spitzmiller lamps from Becker Minty, and a plush pink chair, which Melanie brought over from her last home.* >

> "WE'RE IN THE HEART
> OF SYDNEY, WITH VIEWS
> OF WATER AND SKY,
> SO WE REALLY WANTED
> TO EMULATE THAT"
>
> **SIMONA, INTERIOR DESIGNER**



SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Simona Giacomazzi, Si by Simona, 0434 278 483, sibysimona.co.*

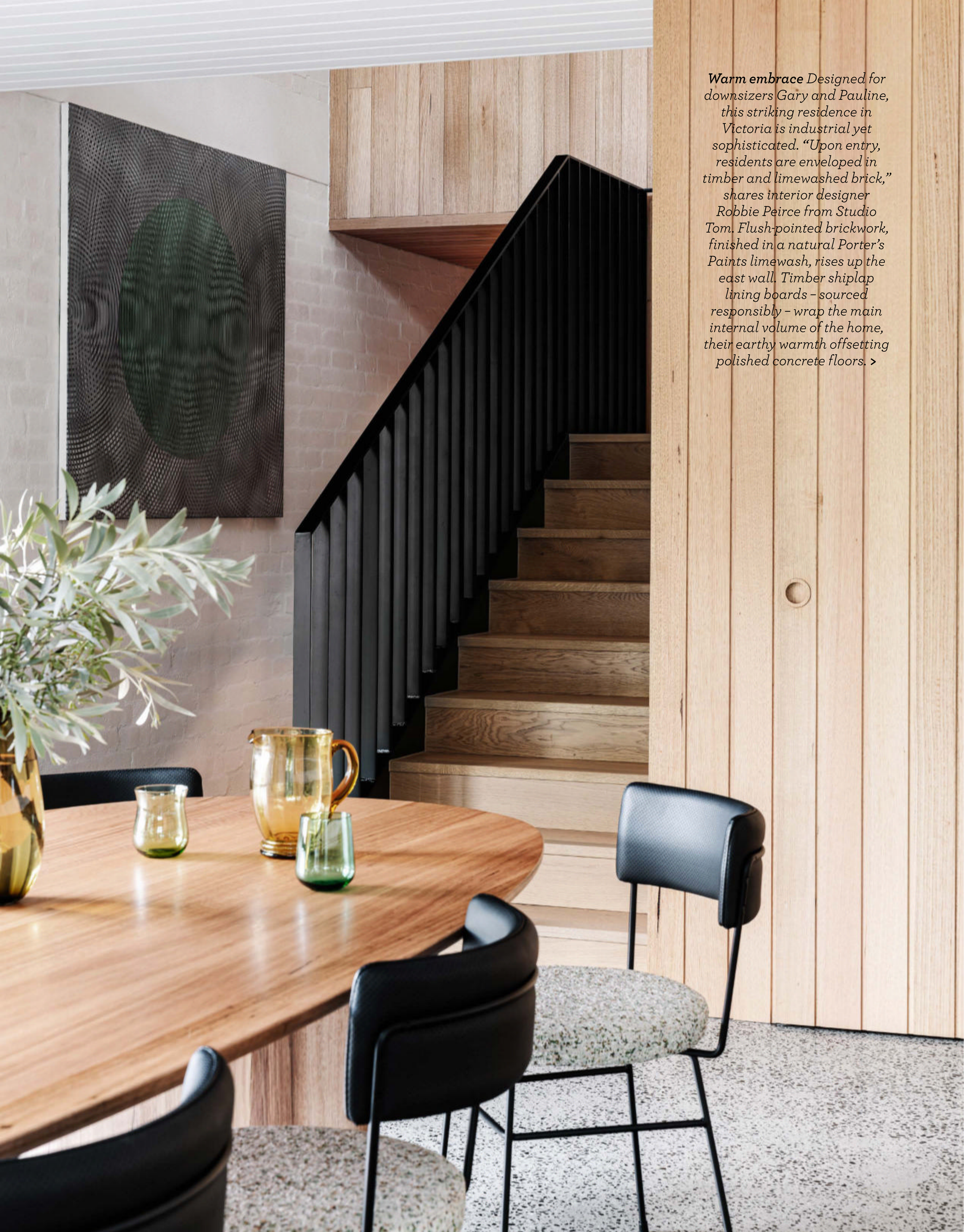
Bathroom *Lavishly designed with natural stone and a luxuriously deep bath, the main bathroom (this page) – like the kitchen – just needed Simona's signature touch of softness to be complete. An Aerin 'Corvo' side table from Becker Minty and light-filtering drapes are used to transformative effect.* ***Guest bedroom*** *This bedroom is a vision in blue, with Phillip Jeffries grasscloth wallpaper from The Textile Company setting a serene mood, which Simona has matched with a custom-designed headboard and striped bed skirt. Theodore Alexander 'Catalina' nightstands complete the scheme.*

Timber tale

In the Macedon Ranges, a warehouse-inspired retreat strikes the perfect balance between robust texture and quiet luxury

STORY REBECCA HOOTON | STYLING NATALIE JAMES | PHOTOGRAPHY MARNIE HAWSON

ARTWORK **ARTIST UNKNOWN**



Warm embrace *Designed for downsizers Gary and Pauline, this striking residence in Victoria is industrial yet sophisticated. "Upon entry, residents are enveloped in timber and limewashed brick," shares interior designer Robbie Peirce from Studio Tom. Flush-pointed brickwork, finished in a natural Porter's Paints limewash, rises up the east wall. Timber shiplap lining boards – sourced responsibly – wrap the main internal volume of the home, their earthy warmth offsetting polished concrete floors.* **>**

When Gary and Pauline traded six acres of sprawling countryside in Mount Macedon for a townhouse footprint, they weren't ready to sacrifice scale or soul. "We still wanted a roomy house but a small lot of land, so double storey was obvious," Gary explains. But while practicality led them to a vertical build, the home itself tells a deeper story – one of warmth, texture and sustainable elements woven seamlessly in.

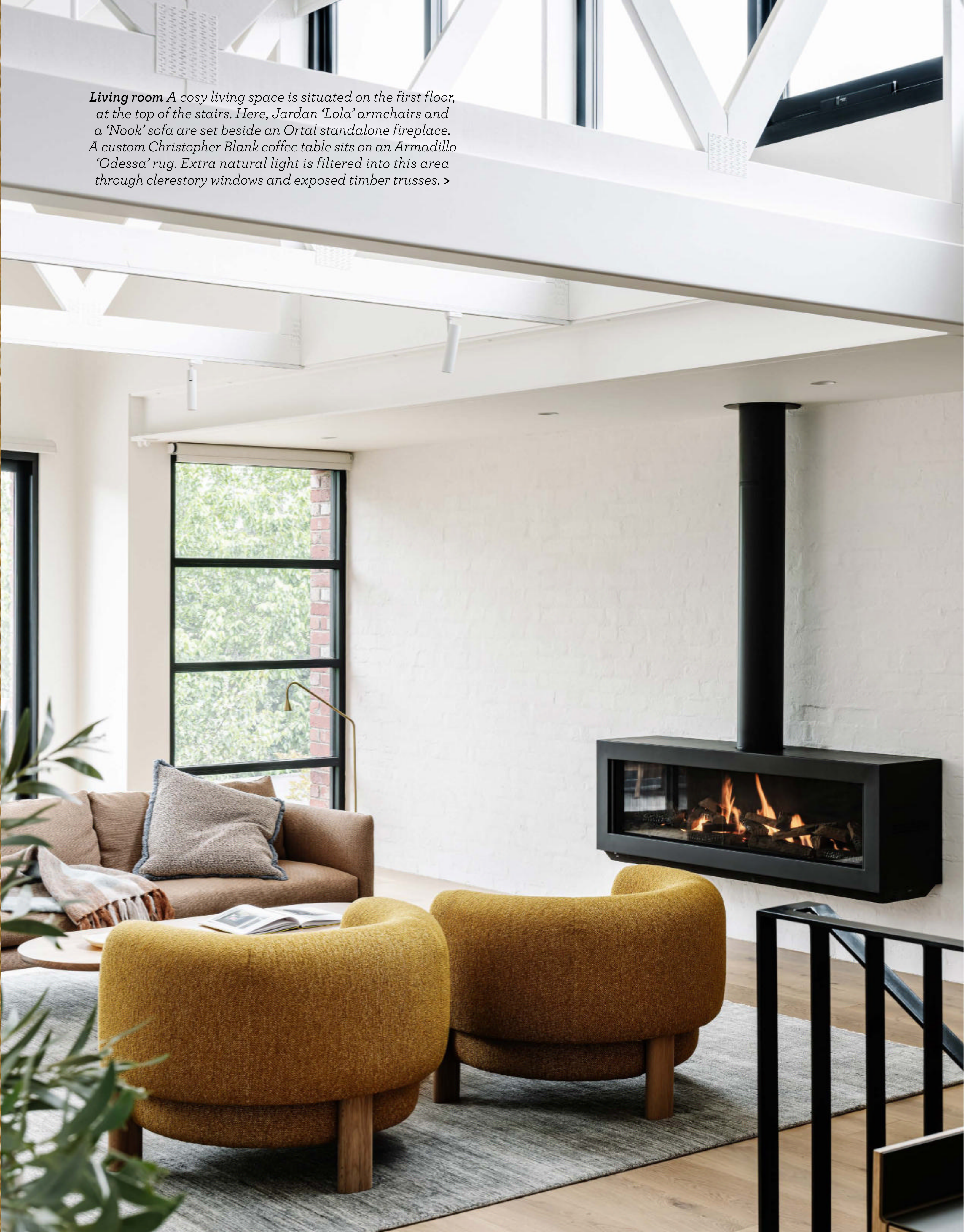
The couple, both business owners, sought a home that would carry them gracefully into their next chapter. Enter Studio Tom, the interior designers behind the project, who brought the couple's vision for a "Scandi inspired, sophisticated industrial warehouse interior" to life with a deep appreciation for craftmanship. "The architectural layout was established within a larger development, featuring boutique warehouse-inspired structures," explains Robbie Peirce, interior designer at Studio Tom. "It was all about honouring that context while creating a home that felt personal and refined."

The two-year build, carried out through Covid by master builder Greg Luke and architecture firm Sense of Space, was remarkably smooth, thanks to meticulous planning. "The house was purpose-built," Gary notes. "We knew we wanted a lift to be integrated from the outset, not added later."

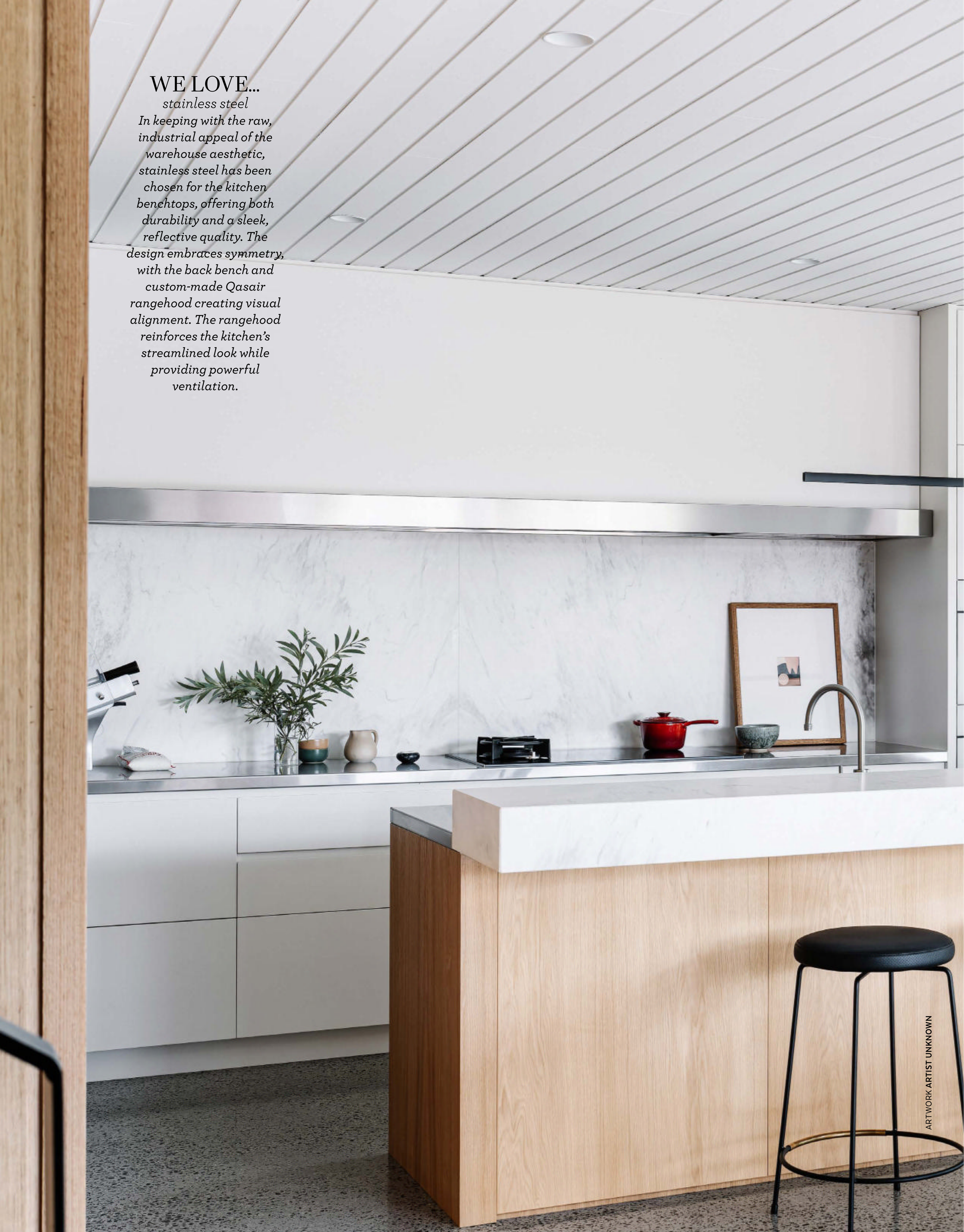
Stepping inside, you're immediately embraced by tactile surfaces that elevate the industrial palette to something unexpectedly romantic. Light, often a challenge in compact homes, was addressed with a custom staircase that rises through a double-height void, drawing daylight deep into the home's core.

Throughout, custom joinery in natural timber veneers, stainless steel and honed stone speak to the couple's desire for materials that are not only beautiful but enduring. In the bathrooms, tactile porcelain tiles lend depth and character, while the bar is elevated with intricate Japanese mosaics – one of designer Robbie's favourite moments in the home for its artistry.

But ask resident Gary to name the true heart of the home, and his answer is immediate. "The outdoor walled courtyard with the open fireplace," he says. "We sit there before or after dinner during autumn and spring." Enclosed yet open to the skies, it's a space where the industrial edge of brick and steel softens under flickering firelight, inviting conversation long into the evening. It's the kind of space that shows how perfectly the house suits them. "It's exactly what we wanted," Gary reflects. "We wouldn't change a thing." HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***



Living room *A cosy living space is situated on the first floor, at the top of the stairs. Here, Jardan 'Lola' armchairs and a 'Nook' sofa are set beside an Ortal standalone fireplace. A custom Christopher Blank coffee table sits on an Armadillo 'Odessa' rug. Extra natural light is filtered into this area through clerestory windows and exposed timber trusses.* >

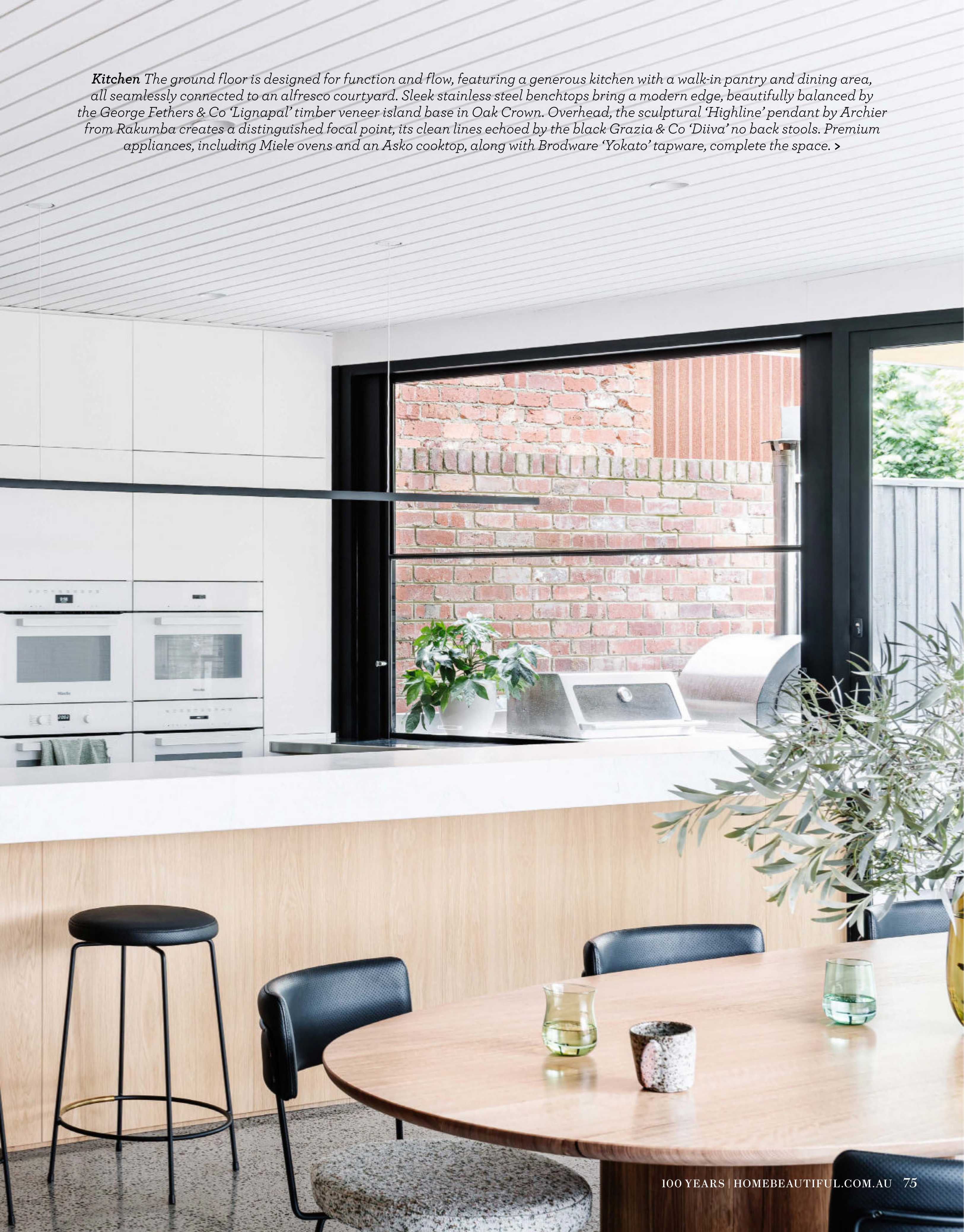


WE LOVE...

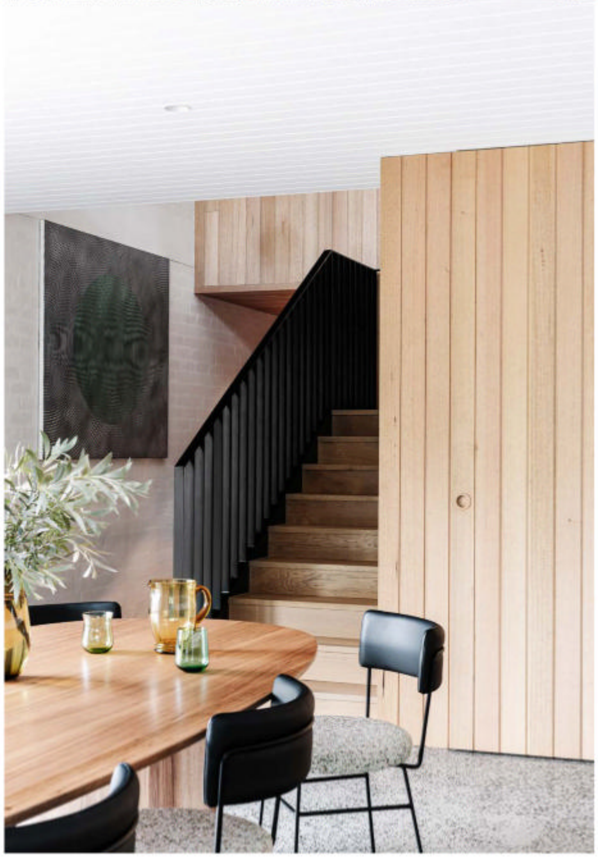
stainless steel

In keeping with the raw, industrial appeal of the warehouse aesthetic, stainless steel has been chosen for the kitchen benchtops, offering both durability and a sleek, reflective quality. The design embraces symmetry, with the back bench and custom-made Qasair rangehood creating visual alignment. The rangehood reinforces the kitchen's streamlined look while providing powerful ventilation.

ARTWORK **ARTIST UNKNOWN**



Kitchen *The ground floor is designed for function and flow, featuring a generous kitchen with a walk-in pantry and dining area, all seamlessly connected to an alfresco courtyard. Sleek stainless steel benchtops bring a modern edge, beautifully balanced by the George Fethers & Co 'Lignapal' timber veneer island base in Oak Crown. Overhead, the sculptural 'Highline' pendant by Archier from Rakumba creates a distinguished focal point, its clean lines echoed by the black Grazia & Co 'Diiva' no back stools. Premium appliances, including Miele ovens and an Asko cooktop, along with Brodware 'Yokato' tapware, complete the space.* **>**

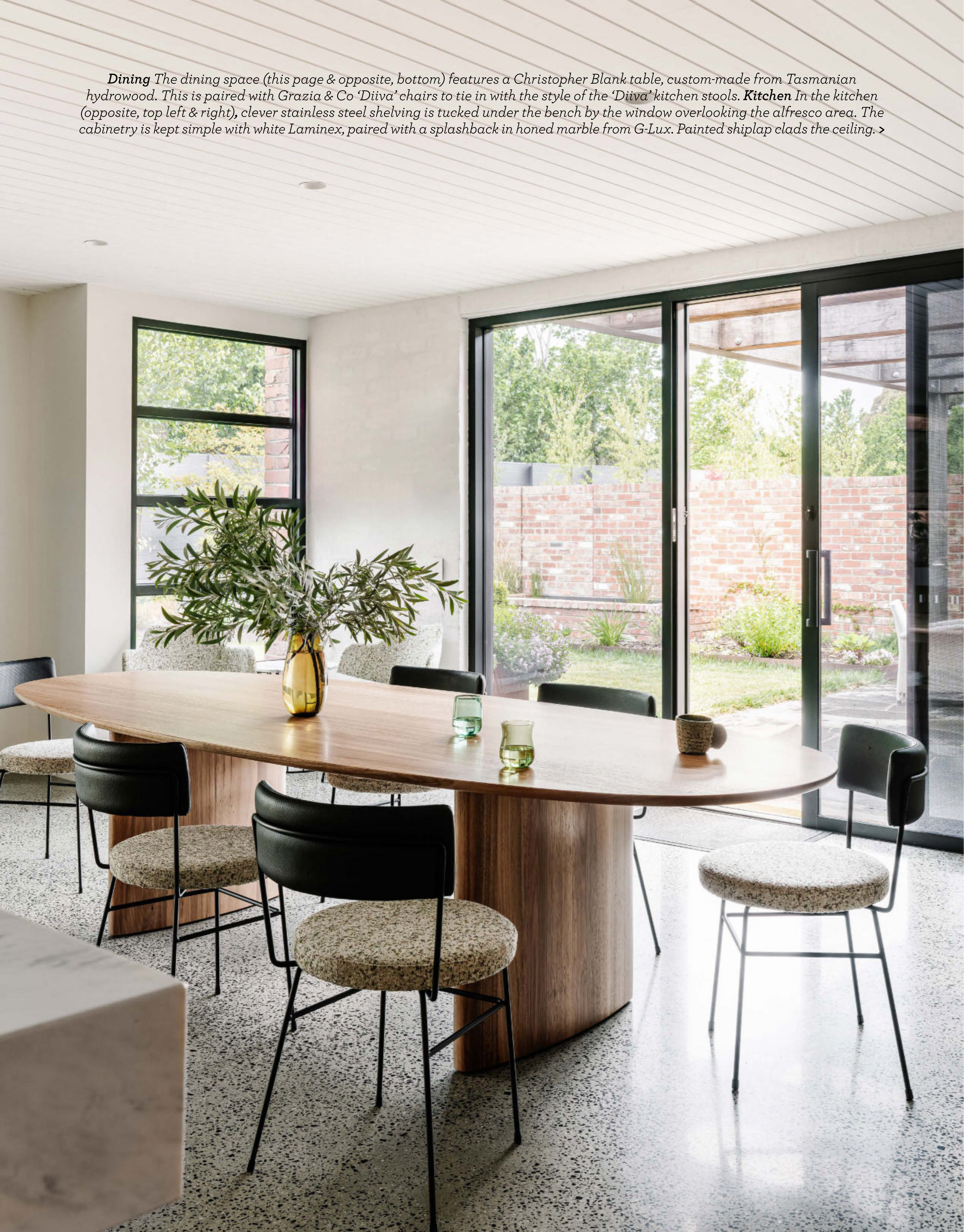


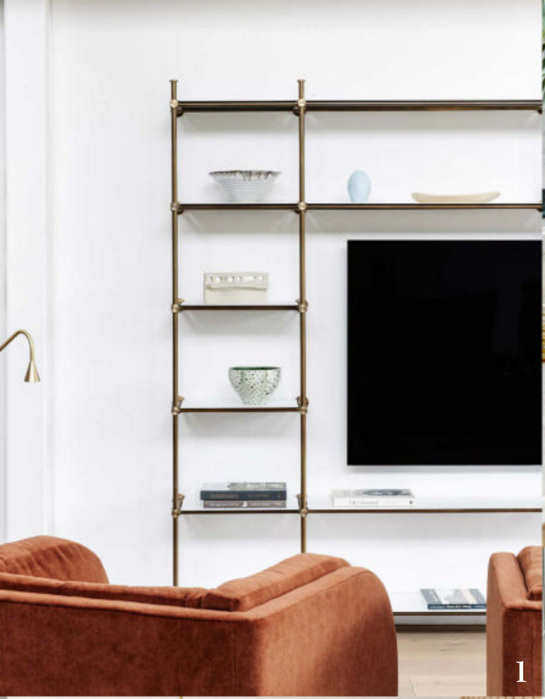
> “THE WARMTH OF RESPONSIBLY SOURCED TIMBER SHIPLAP OFFSETS THE CONCRETE SLAB FLOORING”
>
> **ROBBIE, INTERIOR DESIGNER**

INSIDE STORY
Gary & Pauline’s home

Who lives here? *Gary and Pauline, both 70, both business owners.* ***Were there any specific details you requested?*** *Gary: “We wanted a roomy house on a small lot of land, so double-storey and a good lift was essential.”* ***Were there any surprises?*** *“It was during Covid so we were always expecting surprises but everything was well documented and overall nothing disrupted the build.”*

__Dining__ The dining space (this page & opposite, bottom) features a Christopher Blank table, custom-made from Tasmanian hydrowood. This is paired with Grazia & Co 'Diiva' chairs to tie in with the style of the 'Diiva' kitchen stools. __Kitchen__ In the kitchen (opposite, top left & right), clever stainless steel shelving is tucked under the bench by the window overlooking the alfresco area. The cabinetry is kept simple with white Laminex, paired with a splashback in honed marble from G-Lux. Painted shiplap clads the ceiling. >

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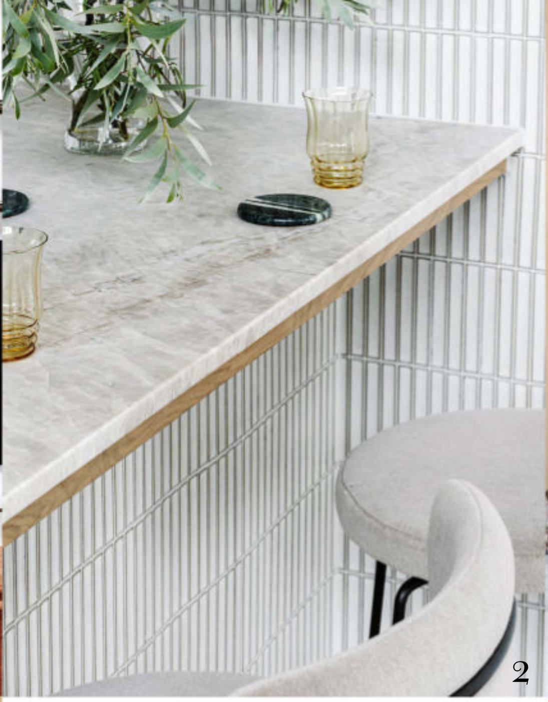
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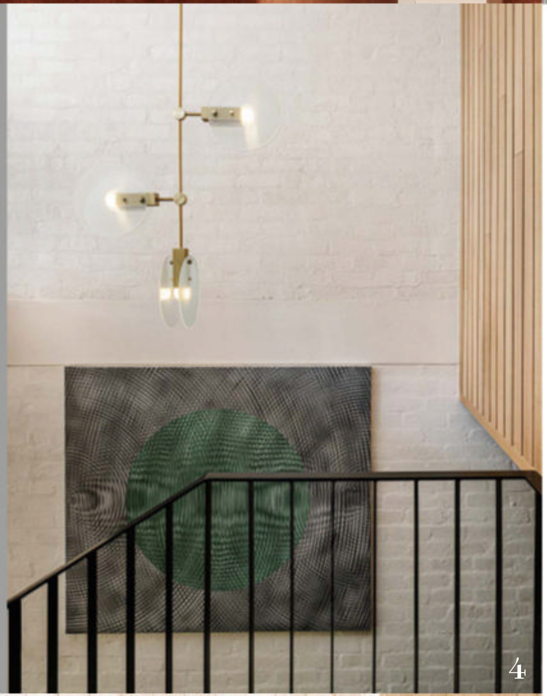
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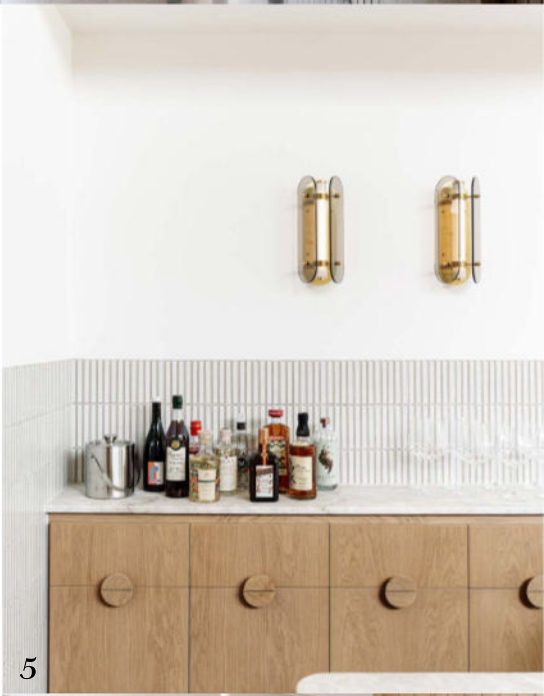
> “JAPANESE MOSAICS ADD A DISTINCTIVE TOUCH TO THE BAR AREA ON THE FIRST FLOOR”
>
> **ROBBIE**

1. *Grazia & Co ‘Harvey’ armchairs in the living room can swivel towards the fireplace or television. Savage Design ‘Maddox’ shelving creates a custom display unit.* ***2.*** *The bar area (also opposite) sits behind the living zone and features Grazia & Co ‘Diiva’ upholstered stools with backs. Tiles are Artedomus ‘Yuki Border’ Japanese mosaic tiles and the benchtop is Taj Mahal quartzite.* ***3.*** *The couple’s Dachshunds hang at the ash-lined entrance with Designer Doorware pulls on the sliding doors.* ***4.*** *The central staircase is adorned with a Ross Gardam ‘Nebulae’ pendant.* ***5.*** *Cabinetry in the bar is George Fethers & Co ‘Lignapal’ timber veneer in Oak Crown. Snelling Studio ‘Arch’ wall lights feature.* ***6.*** *Toasted Oak treads from Royal Oak Floors are on the stairs.* ***7.*** *A custom metal powdercoated hand rail emanates elegance.* **>**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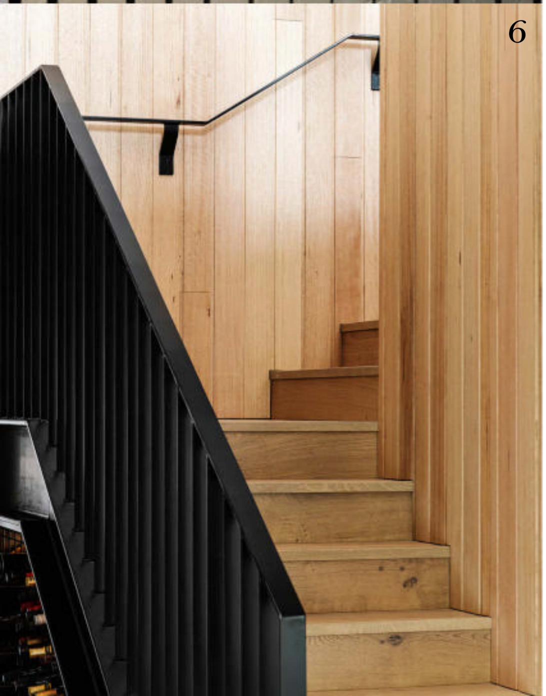
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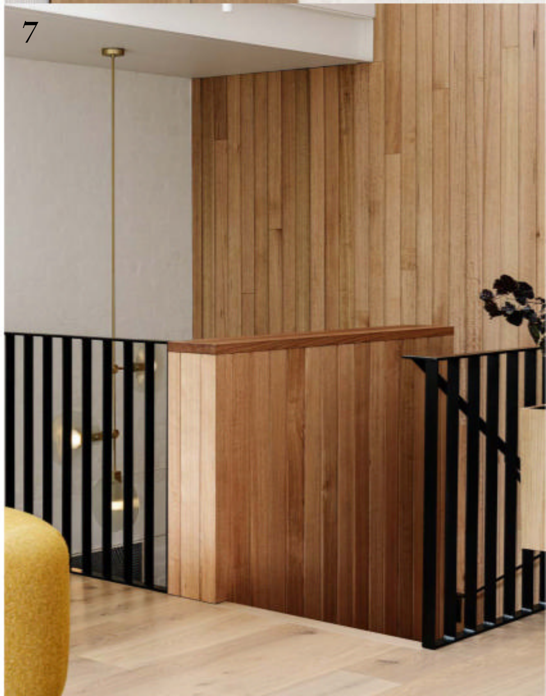
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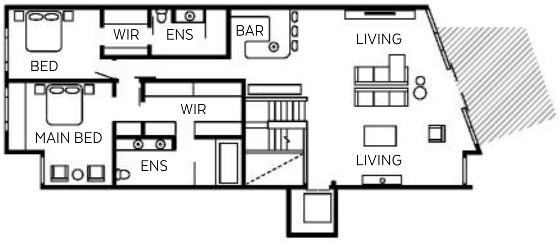
__Studio__ In a building adjoining the main home is a studio (top left) with a study and its own bedroom and bathroom. ***Bedrooms*** *Upstairs in the main building are two bedrooms – each with walk-in robes and ensuites – designed to soak up the landscape of the Macedon Ranges. One of the bedrooms (top right) features a solid oak bench seat with upholstered cushion. The Astro Lighting 'Fuse' wall light offers bedside illumination.* ***Ensuites*** *The adjoining ensuite (bottom right & opposite) to the pictured bedroom features a custom formed bath, made with Monolith porcelain homogeneous tiles. A skylight helps bring in natural light through high-level windows. Custom cabinets in George Fethers & Co 'Lignapal' veneer Oak White Wash are paired with a marble benchtop and splashback. The hardware is from Brodware, with a 'Yokato' tap at the Astra Walker sinks. Custom cabinet mirrors have integrated LED lighting.* **>**

“EARTHY PORCELAIN TILES WERE SELECTED FOR THE BATHROOMS”

ROBBIE

FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR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BAR
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MAIN BED
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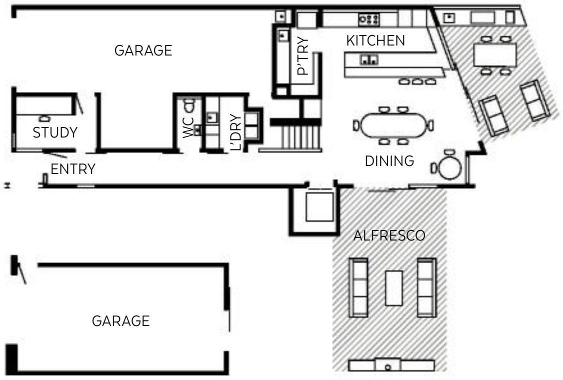
GROUND FLOOR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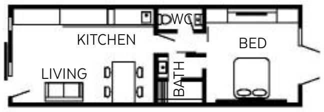
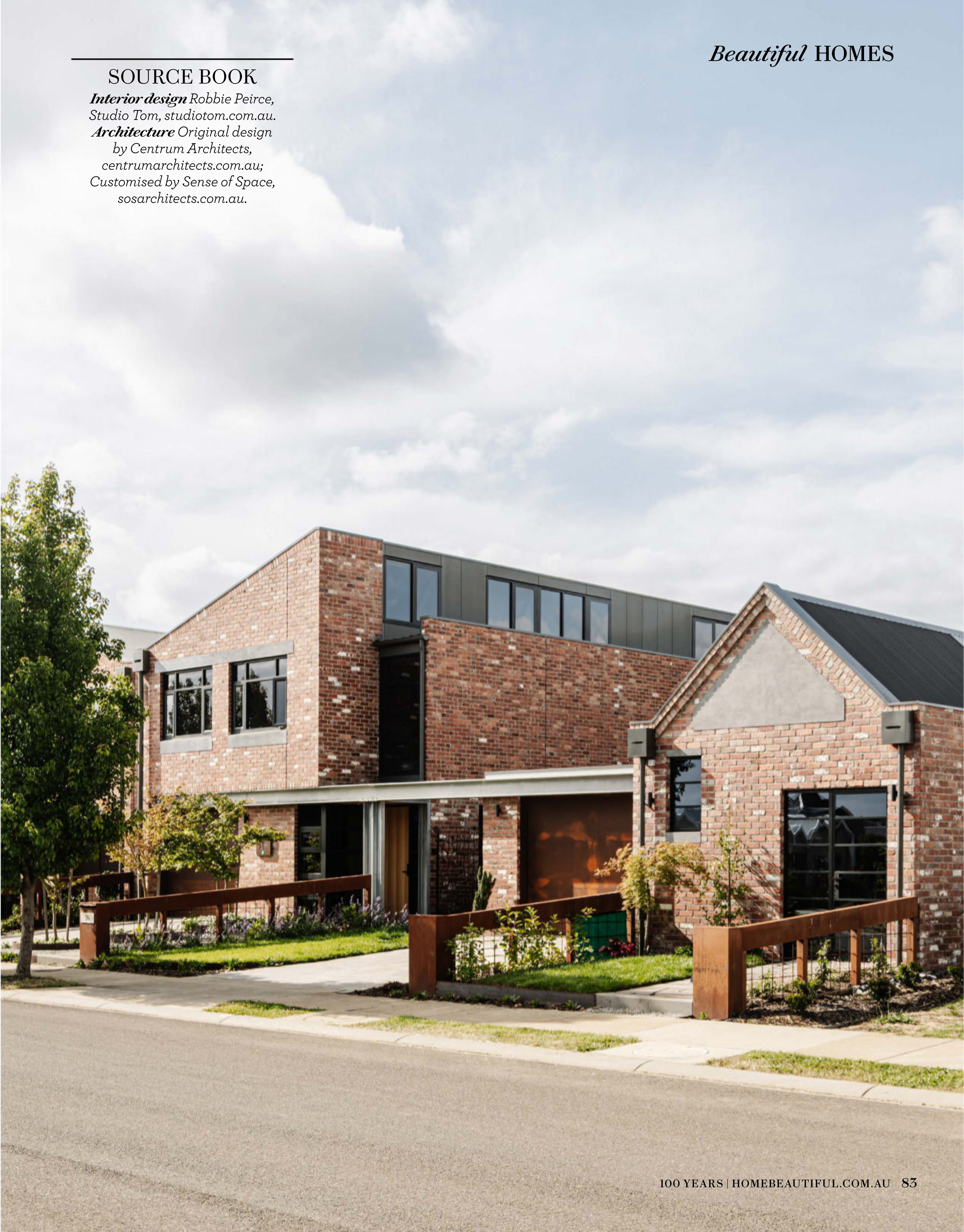
P'TRY
KITCHEN
STUDY
WC
L'DRY
ENTRY
DINING
ALFRESCO
GARAGE


WC
KITCHEN
BED
LIVING
BATH

STUDIO

Bedroom *At the bedside in one of the bedrooms (top left) is a custom metal bedside table. This room has Bremworth 'Samurai' wool carpet on the floor.* ***Studio bathroom*** *The separate studio has its own bathroom (bottom left), which features the same elements as used throughout the home and other bathrooms.* ***Exterior*** *On the facade (opposite), recycled red bricks, timeworn and full of soul, form the foundation of two structures connected by the garage. The main home stands alongside the studio with the pitched roof. Double-glazed windows are carefully positioned to invite natural light and cross ventilation, while ensuring privacy amid the bustle beyond.*



SOURCE BOOK

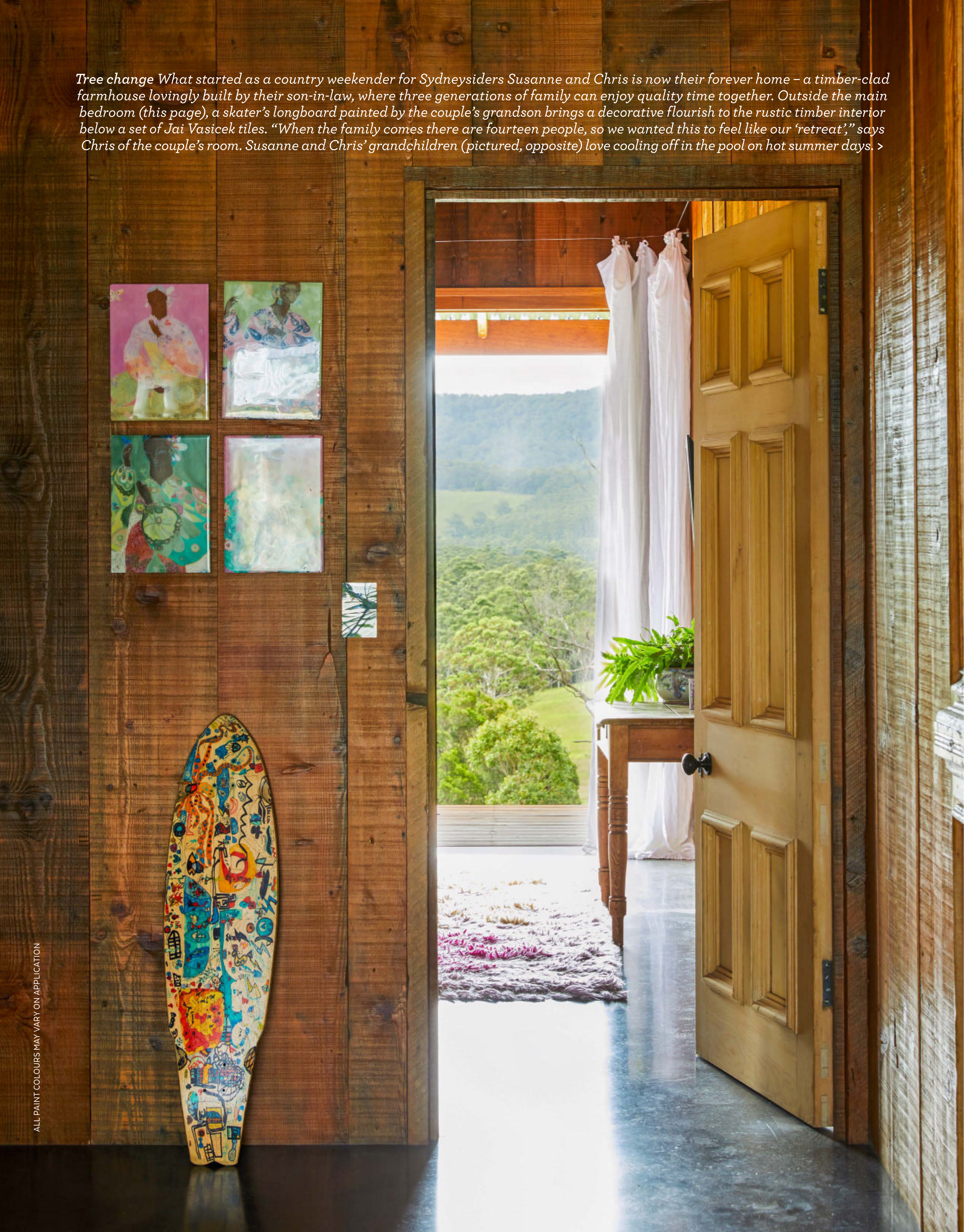
Interior design *Robbie Peirce, Studio Tom, studiotom.com.au.* ***Architecture*** *Original design by Centrum Architects, centrumarchitects.com.au; Customised by Sense of Space, sosarchitects.com.au.*

RURAL RETREAT

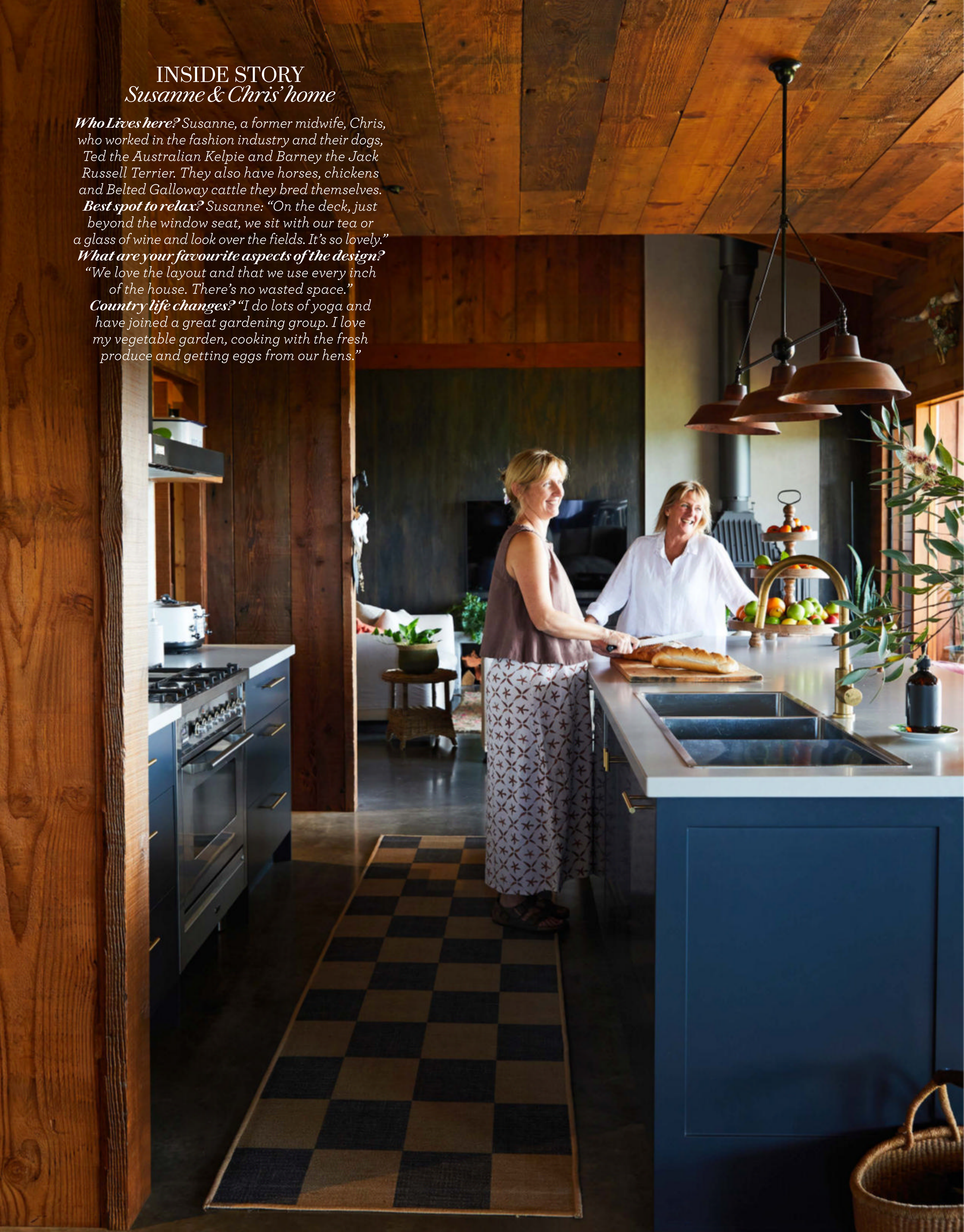
A new home and a new life... For one Sydney couple, building a dream timber farmhouse in the countryside was a family affair

STORY SUE WHEELER | PHOTOGRAPHY CATH MUSCAT

Tree change *What started as a country weekender for Sydneysiders Susanne and Chris is now their forever home – a timber-clad farmhouse lovingly built by their son-in-law, where three generations of family can enjoy quality time together. Outside the main bedroom (this page), a skater's longboard painted by the couple's grandson brings a decorative flourish to the rustic timber interior below a set of Jai Vasicek tiles. "When the family comes there are fourteen people, so we wanted this to feel like our 'retreat'," says Chris of the couple's room. Susanne and Chris' grandchildren (pictured, opposite) love cooling off in the pool on hot summer days.* >

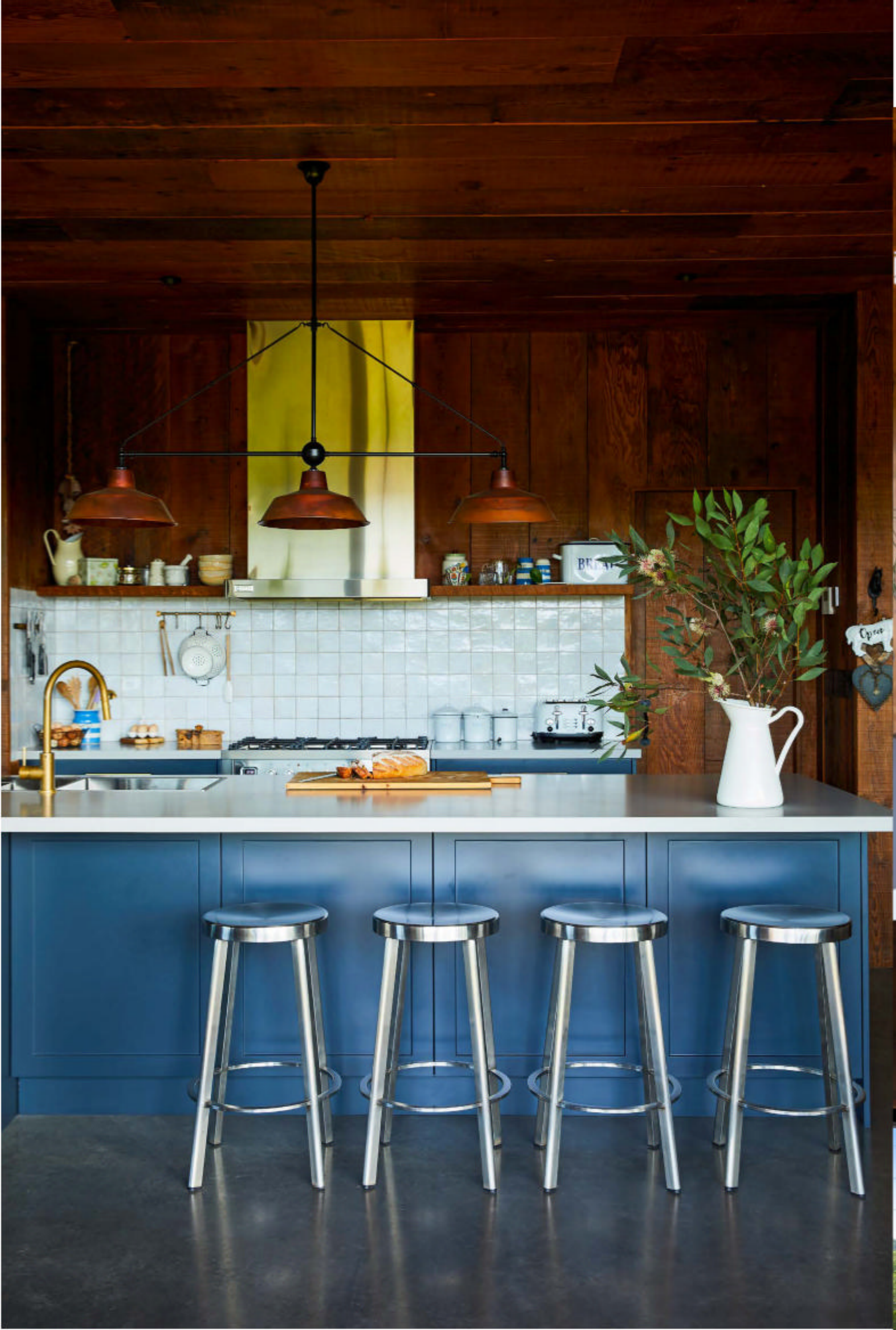


ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



INSIDE STORY
Susanne & Chris' home

Who Lives here? *Susanne, a former midwife, Chris, who worked in the fashion industry and their dogs, Ted the Australian Kelpie and Barney the Jack Russell Terrier. They also have horses, chickens and Belted Galloway cattle they bred themselves.* ***Best spot to relax?*** *Susanne: "On the deck, just beyond the window seat, we sit with our tea or a glass of wine and look over the fields. It's so lovely."* ***What are your favourite aspects of the design?*** *"We love the layout and that we use every inch of the house. There's no wasted space."* ***Country life changes?*** *"I do lots of yoga and have joined a great gardening group. I love my vegetable garden, cooking with the fresh produce and getting eggs from our hens."*



***Kitchen** Farmhouse style is alive in the kitchen (above), with a freestanding Ilve oven, Fat Shack Vintage aged copper pendant and Brodware 'City Stik' pull-out kitchen mixer in Rumbled Brass Organic. "I wanted to stand at the island and look out to the dam and the hills, so this informed the layout of the whole living area. A large fridge and extra storage are out of sight in the butler's pantry," says Susanne (pictured opposite, with her daughter Anna, who has since welcomed her fourth child). The 'Checkerboard Re-Jute' rug in Soft Black is from Ruggable. Cabinetry in Porter's Paint Squid Ink is striking against the Essa Stone benchtops in Ash Concrete, home to an Abey double sink. Zellige tiles in Seafoam from Eco Outdoor grace the splashback, offering texture and contrast. **Living** The open-plan kitchen unfolds to the main living zone (top right), decorated with a painting by Kate Debbo. **Dining** A wide deck and picture windows frame verdant views from the dining area (bottom right).* >

It's one thing watching *Escape to the Country*, but doing it is another. Building your own home on the top of a hill surrounded by state forest? Well, that's a few (steep) steps further. But this is what Sydneysiders Chris and Susanne did when they traded forty years of city life for a 120-acre working farm, a home they share with twenty Belted Galloway cattle, five horses, chickens, their Australian Kelpie Ted and Jack Russell Terrier Barney. Situated inland on the NSW mid-north coast, their cosy cottage, cocooned by warm Australian timbers, looks over the trees and their tranquil village, a scene they appreciate daily... not least when relaxing in their outdoor bath. "We fell in love with the area over 20 years ago, during holidays and picking up our daughter from a friend's weekender. It feels very English. It's so green and the views are stunning," says Susanne, an expat.

A true (hard) labour of love, the home was built by their son-in-law Brendon (the couple have three adult daughters and seven grandchildren). Chris painstakingly sourced and prepped all the timber, from the property's grey ironbark trees to the recycled timber he found on Gumtree and Marketplace (cue umpteen trips to Victoria with a trailer). "Chris spent a whole year wearing a gas mask, covered in sawdust," shares Susanne.

The couple's tree change was a slow burner. In 2005 they bought a shed on five acres, then in 2015 upgraded to this farm, which offered more land for the family's horses. "We converted the machinery shed into accommodation and came here often, but I never imagined a permanent move," says Susanne. Then two years on, they sold their Sydney home. "The shed was cute and we were happy living in it, so we wondered if we even needed to build a house, but at the end of 2020, during Covid, the time seemed right."

With the couple's designs approved and earthworks complete, a burnished concrete slab formed beautiful floors throughout and set the scene for a country cottage with a modern edge. "Having a big family, we wanted lots of living space and outdoor decks, but only needed two bedrooms because we also had the shed," explains Susanne. An open-plan living area comprises the central kitchen (with a butler's pantry and laundry behind), fireside lounge, dining space and a family-sized wraparound window seat. The main suite offers privacy, morning sunlight and valley vistas. There's also a guest bedroom and study.

The couple imagined "moody and warm" interiors, minus any "log cabin" overtones. "While it's a rustic farmhouse, we were after a level of sophistication and modern feel," says Chris, who welcomed light accents and blue cabinetry for fresh contrast and unexpected details.

Reflecting on the move, Susanne says "I worried that I'd miss family and friends too much, but also knew Chris would go mad retiring in the city. I thought I'd go back and forth, but as it transpired, my daughters now live close by and my best friend bought a cottage in the village. That and the community here is wonderful and we love waking up to the peaceful country sounds and feeling of space". HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Living *"The idea was in my scrapbook for years," says Susanne of this cosy nook (opposite) off the dining area. "We use this space a lot and love it, especially when you open all the windows." Sitting atop a favourite rug (try Sage and Clare for similar) is a coffee table that Brendon made. Vintage shelves and a cane chair complete the eclectic look near a linocut artwork by Paul Smith.* >

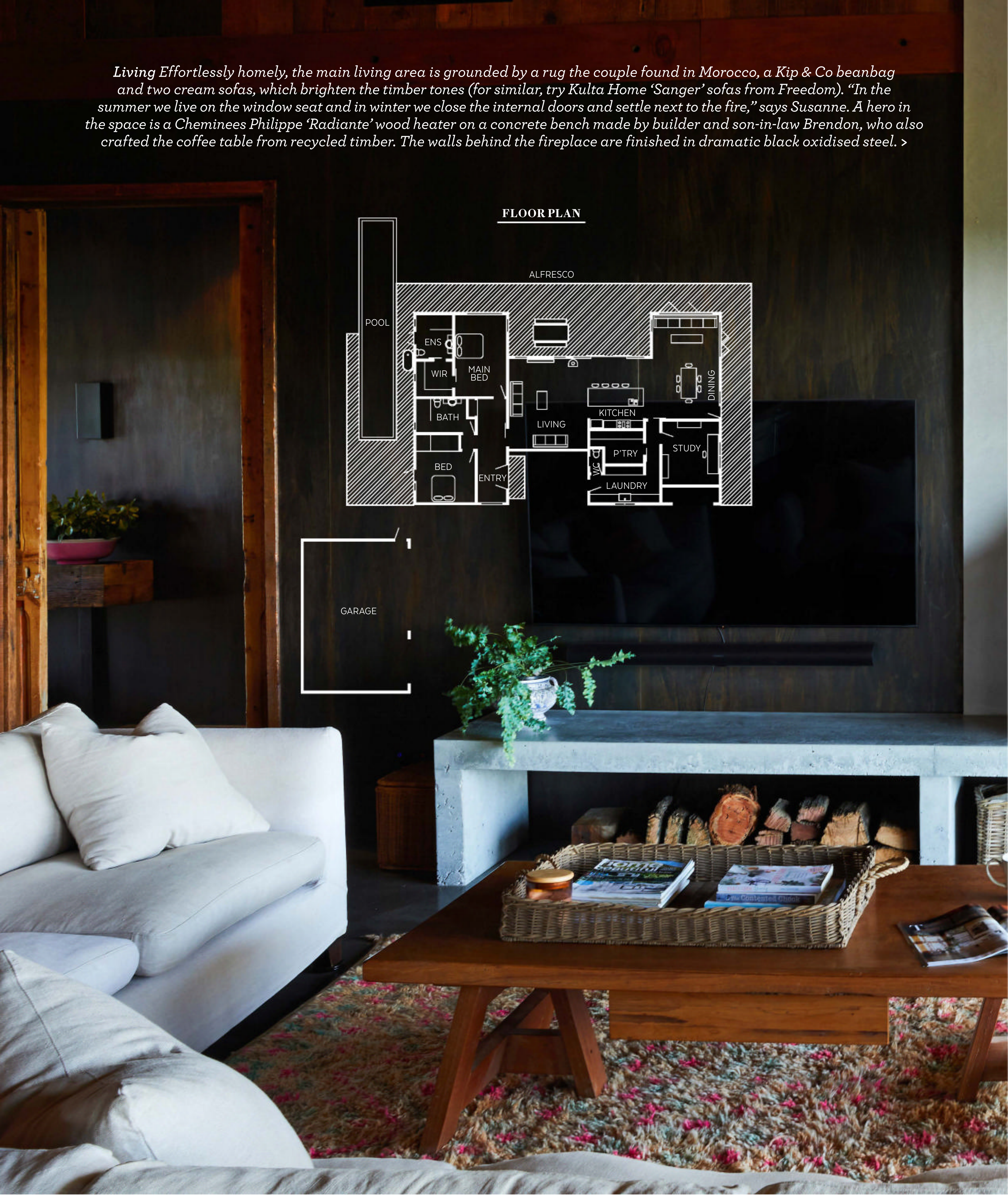
WE LOVE...
timber tones

"I wondered if the timber might look too dark and thought, worst case scenario, we could paint some of it white. But I love it," shares Susanne. In its natural state, reclaimed timber is the hero of the home, inside and out. "Several of the ceilings are Baltic pine, which brings a lighter tone to all the darker wood," shares Chris, who scoured Carousel Interiors, The Design Ark and of course Renovators Paradise. Visit carouselinteriors.com.au, thedesignark.com.au and renovatorsparadise.com.au.

Living *A riot of colours, pattern and texture make for a joyous and comfy window seat, thanks to a variety of vibrant cushions from Bonnie & Neil, Kip & Co and Sage and Clare. The couple's grandchildren (pictured), love relaxing on the generous window seat, as does Barney the Jack Russell Terrier. For a similar pendant, try 'Oval Cotton' pendant in White at Lighting Collective; for a similar fan, try 'Caelid' ceiling fan in Bronze/Natural from Beacon Lighting.* >

Living *Effortlessly homely, the main living area is grounded by a rug the couple found in Morocco, a Kip & Co beanbag and two cream sofas, which brighten the timber tones (for similar, try Kulta Home 'Sanger' sofas from Freedom). "In the summer we live on the window seat and in winter we close the internal doors and settle next to the fire," says Susanne. A hero in the space is a Cheminees Philippe 'Radiante' wood heater on a concrete bench made by builder and son-in-law Brendon, who also crafted the coffee table from recycled timber. The walls behind the fireplace are finished in dramatic black oxidised steel.* >

FLOOR PLAN


ALFRESCO
POOL
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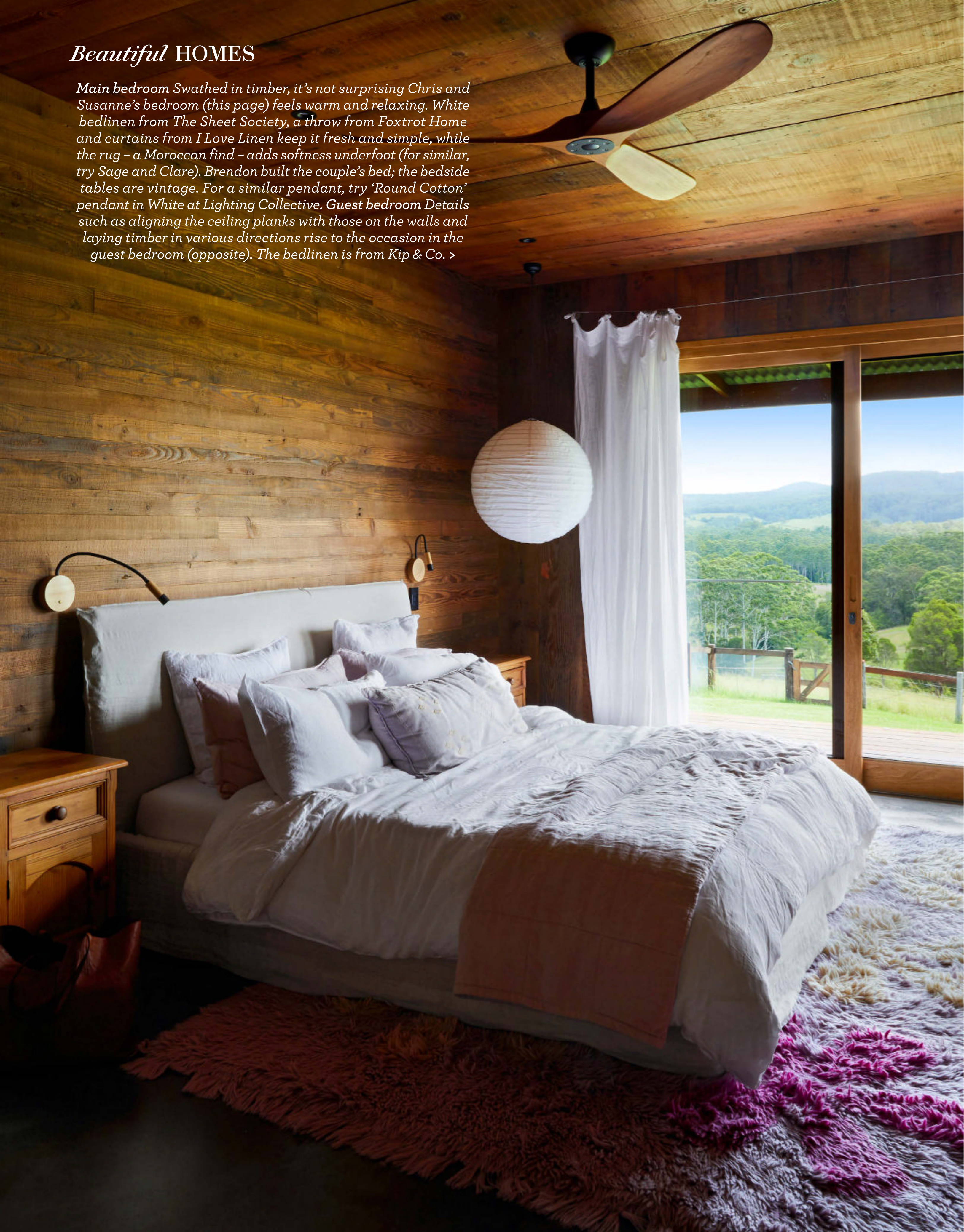
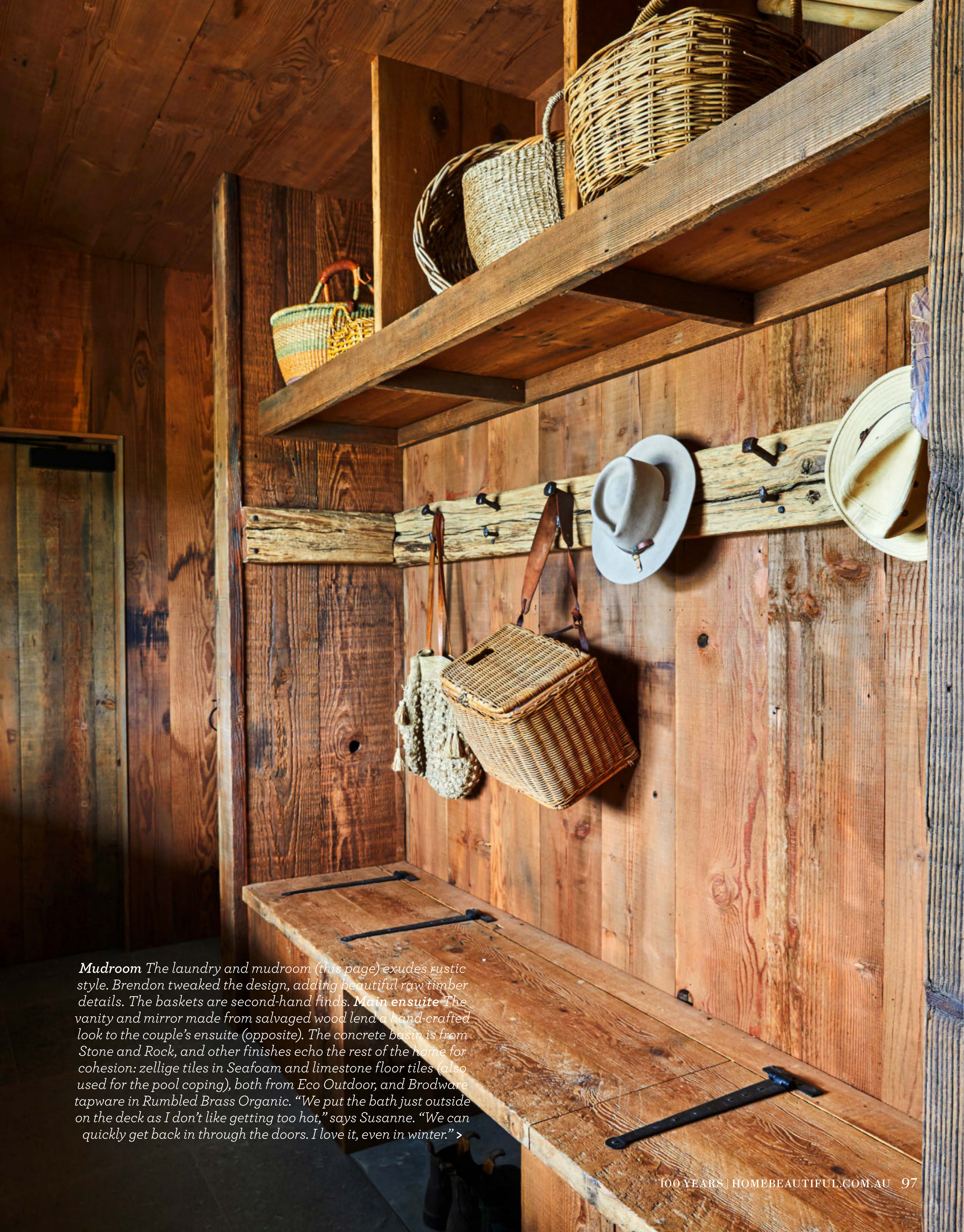
MAIN BED
BATH
BED
ENTRY
LIVING
KITCHEN
DINING
P'TRY
WC
LAUNDRY
STUDY
GARAGE

__Main bedroom__ Swathed in timber, it's not surprising Chris and Susanne's bedroom (this page) feels warm and relaxing. White bedlinen from The Sheet Society, a throw from Foxtrot Home and curtains from I Love Linen keep it fresh and simple, while the rug – a Moroccan find – adds softness underfoot (for similar, try Sage and Clare). Brendon built the couple's bed; the bedside tables are vintage. For a similar pendant, try 'Round Cotton' pendant in White at Lighting Collective. __Guest bedroom__ Details such as aligning the ceiling planks with those on the walls and laying timber in various directions rise to the occasion in the guest bedroom (opposite). The bedlinen is from Kip & Co. >



> "WE HAVE A BIG FAMILY, SO WE WANTED A HOUSE WITH PLENTY OF SPACE INSIDE AND OUT THAT ALLOWED US TO INVITE EVERYONE OVER"
>
> **SUSANNE**

> “WE BOUGHT GOOD QUALITY FIXTURES AND FITTINGS, AS WE KNEW WE’D BE HERE FOR A LONG TIME”
>
> **SUSANNE**



Mudroom *The laundry and mudroom (this page) exudes rustic style. Brendon tweaked the design, adding beautiful raw timber details. The baskets are second-hand finds.* ***Main ensuite*** *The vanity and mirror made from salvaged wood lend a hand-crafted look to the couple's ensuite (opposite). The concrete basin is from Stone and Rock, and other finishes echo the rest of the home for cohesion: zellige tiles in Seafoam and limestone floor tiles (also used for the pool coping), both from Eco Outdoor, and Brodware tapware in Rumbled Brass Organic. "We put the bath just outside on the deck as I don't like getting too hot," says Susanne. "We can quickly get back in through the doors. I love it, even in winter."* >

SOURCE BOOK

Builder *Binna Burra Construction, binnaburraconstruction.com.au.*
Timberwork *Round 2 Timbers, round2timbers.com.au.*

Alfresco *Brendan (pictured, above) crafted the table and benches on the deck.* ***Pool*** *"There's nothing like diving straight in after you've been working on the farm. And our grandchildren [pictured] love it," says Chris of the pool (opposite, bottom right), which is finished with glass mosaics from Eco Outdoor. The concrete bath from Fossil Vintage has uninterrupted views.* ***Wood shed*** *Acres of greenery are punctuated by the rural charm of the wood shed (opposite, bottom left).*

> “OUR GRANDCHILDREN HAVE THEIR PONIES HERE, SO THEY ARE ALWAYS RIDING AROUND THE FARM OR PLAYING IN THE POOL” **CHRIS**

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PHOTOGRAPHY SEAN FENNESSY

BURIED TREASURE
PAGE 102 →

Metallic trends

BURIED TREASURE

Your hardware finishes define your home's style – here's how to nail some of the most stylish metal looks in your interiors

WORDS REBECCA HOOTON

Metallic finishes are more than just a detail in your home's design – they help shape the entire mood of your space. "Knowing your different metallic finishes is crucial because each metal has its own unique ageing process, undertones and texture," says Renee Enoka, product executive and interior designer at ABI Interiors. "If you're not aware of how they evolve over time, you might end up with a different look than you envisioned."

This understanding is key when mixing metals, too. The right balance can create a sophisticated look, while clashing finishes might feel mismatched. Whether you want your tapware or hardware to make a bold statement or subtly blend in, Renee advises considering this early in the design process. "A sleek, minimalist finish can create a calming, understated feel, while a bold, textured finish can serve as a focal point."

Layering in the newest metallic trends is a simple way to create a polished, well-curated look throughout your home. In this story, we'll explore the metallic finishes gaining momentum – and how to confidently mix and apply them in your home for a cohesive, elevated result from room to room.

SPOTLIGHT ON
AGED BRONZE

Ageing gracefully

Characterised by a rich, dark brown hue with subtle copper-toned highlights, aged bronze has a naturally weathered yet refined finish and offers glimmering depth. It brings a sense of heritage while feeling effortlessly modern. Unlike high-shine finishes, aged bronze – along with copper and other similar metals – develops depth and character over time. This versatility makes aged bronze an excellent choice for layering with other metal finishes at home, allowing for a curated yet cohesive look. "You don't have to use the same metallic finish everywhere in your house," says Renee. "Many finishes complement each other beautifully, as long as their undertones are matched correctly." A perfect example of this is Copperstone (pictured), a luxury homestead and accommodation in Bangalow by The Range Estates. "Copperstone, by name, lent itself to the use of copper and copper-toned metals," shares homeowner, co-founder and creative director Emma Lane. "I've always been drawn to the warmth of copper and Corten steel, which we've used for benchtops and weathered elements." The reflective warmth of these metal finishes enhances the home's soft, earthy palette, adding a richness and contrast. For those looking to achieve a similar effect, Emma suggests embracing the imperfections found in natural metals. "You have to be happy with visual interruptions – little marks of character that take time to blend into the patina."

Team with...

Metals *Aged bronze works beautifully with copper, brass and Corten steel for a warm, layered look. For contrast, pair it with matte black or brushed nickel to add depth and dimension.*
Materials *Pairs well with deep, organic materials and walnut, teak and mahogany timber, while its evolving patina enhances the raw beauty of stones such as basalt, soapstone and onyx.*
Colours *Ochre, rust and olive tones enhance the organic warmth of aged bronze finishes. For a dramatic touch, contrast it with charcoal, navy or deep burgundy.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

"Just clean with mild soapy water – nothing too acidic, which will etch into the surface," shares Emma. And don't try to keep your aged bronze perfect – an evolving patina is part of the charm.

GET THE LOOK

Clockwise from top left *Tiberio honed* ***marble****, from $643.50/sqm, Artedomus. 'Prescot'* ***chandelier*** *in Bronze, $2849, Urban Lighting. Uttermost 'A Little Knotty'* ***mirror*** *in Aged Bronze, $709, Shine Mirrors. 'Halldale'* ***vase****, $159, Pottery Barn. >*

PHOTOGRAPHY SEAN FENNESSY

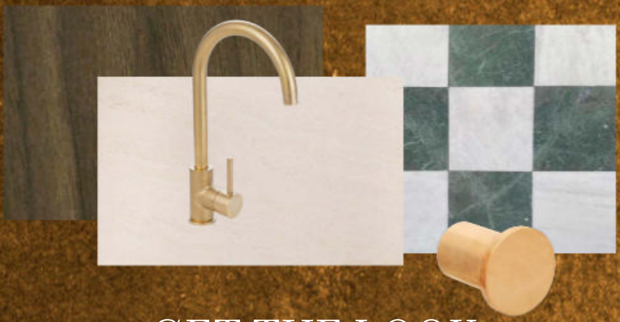
SPOTLIGHT ON
AGED BRASS

Antiques dealer

There's a reason antique brass is having a moment – it's timeless, full of character and gets better with age. Also known as aged brass, this unlacquered metallic finish embraces the beauty of natural wear and handling, developing a unique patina over time. "Antique brass ages through a process called patination," explains Renee. "Frequent contact lightens some areas, while untouched sections darken, creating a rich, lived-in look." This evolving finish pairs effortlessly with warm timbers like oak and walnut, while natural stones – marble, limestone and slate – enhance its depth. Earthy hues including deep greens, terracotta and rich browns bring out the metal's warmth, while cream and crisp white offer a striking contrast. "It's a versatile choice that works beautifully in both heritage and contemporary spaces," says Renee. From kitchen mixers to robe hooks, antique brass can add a touch of rustic charm, without feeling outdated. It's an ever-changing finish, shaped by time and touch, making it uniquely yours.

Team with...

Metals *Pair this finish with brushed gold or bronze for a collected-over-time feel, or contrast it with matte black or polished nickel for a fresh and modern look.* ***Materials*** *Mix your aged or antique brass with warm timbers or dark, rich woods. The patina adds depth to natural stones such as limestone, marble and slate.* ***Colours*** *Muted, earthy hues such as deep greens and bold browns complement the warmth of aged brass.*



GET THE LOOK

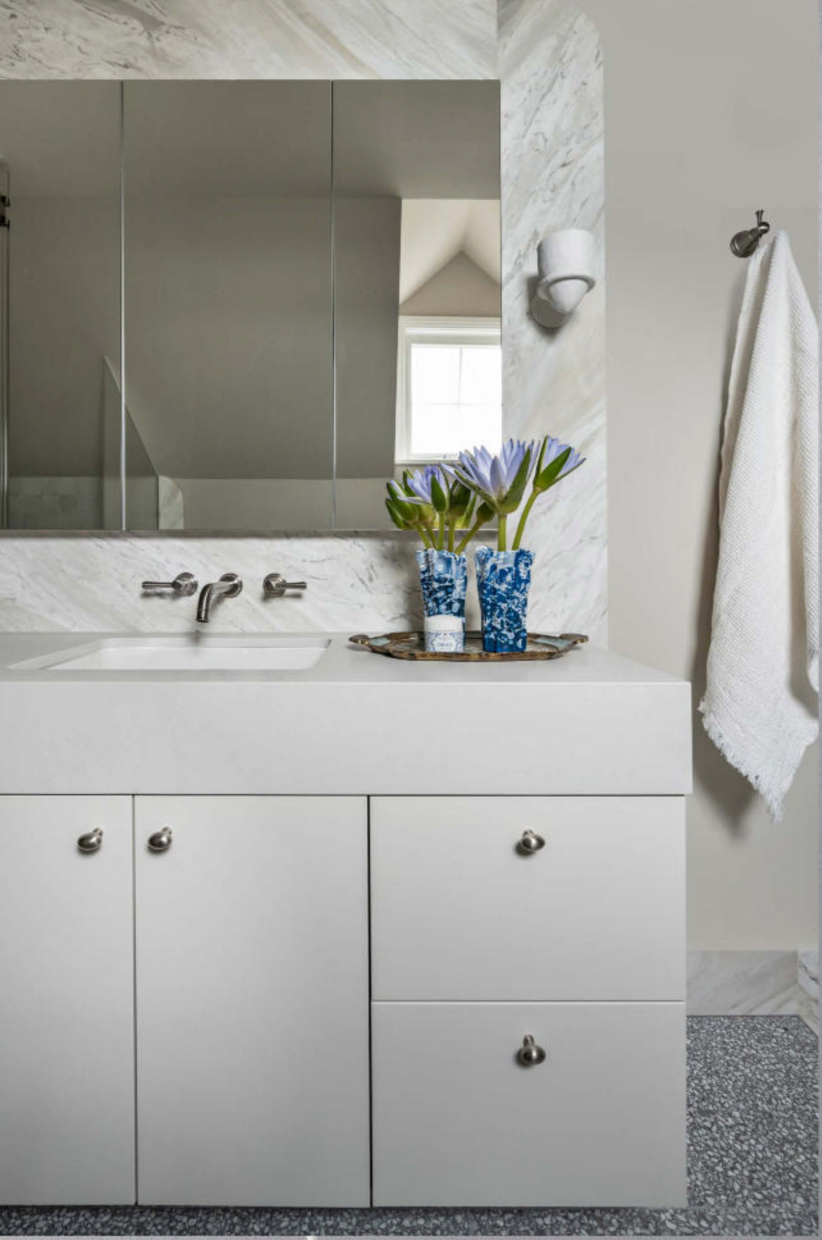
Clockwise from top left *AbsoluteGrain* ***laminate*** *in Sepia Walnut, $158.73/sqm, Laminex. 'Verde and Milos' marble* ***tiles*** *(40.6cm x 40.6cm), $320/sqm, Graystone Tile & Design Studio. 'Milani'* ***robe hook*** *in Tumbled Aged Brass, $49.90; 'Izmir'* ***tile*** *in Light Beige (120cm x 60cm), $99.90/sqm; and 'Elysian'* ***kitchen mixer*** *in Tumbled Aged Brass, $324.90, all ABI Interiors.* >

"This timeless finish brings warmth and character to any space, evoking a charming, lived-in feel"

RENEE ENOKA, ABI INTERIORS

IN THE DETAILS

When mixing metals, use the 70/30 rule. Select one metal finish to dominate (about 70 per cent), then accent it with a second (30 per cent) for cohesion.



SPOTLIGHT ON
POLISHED NICKEL

Nickel for your thoughts

This is a timeless, sophisticated metal finish, which offers the elegance of silver with a warm undertone. Unlike chrome, nickel has a softer and richer depth, making it a versatile choice for any interior. “Nickel and stainless steel are undoubtedly two of the most timeless metallic finishes,” shares Renee. “They’re more affordable than other options, yet still provide the same sophisticated, elevated aesthetic.”

A recent project in Sydney by Duet design studio (pictured) shows how mixing metals from the same tonal family as polished nickel can be executed with perfection. “The brushed nickel finish of the door handles and pewter tapware lends itself to the classic-style kitchen, honouring the heritage of this 1880s terrace,” explains Shannon Shlom, director at Duet. “These finishes will also hold up over time, due to their timeless quality, which is evident in the master ensuite where the joinery has a more contemporary profile.” Beyond their longevity, these finishes enhance the warmth and tactility of natural materials. “We love the softness of the metal against the sandstone,” adds Dominique Brammah, director at Duet. “We were keen to encourage the glowing light that bounces around this home, and these metallic finishes play a key role.”

Team with...

Metals *Mix nickel with stainless steel for a seamless, modern aesthetic or contrast with brushed brass or aged bronze for warmth and depth. Prefer drama? Try it with matte black.* ***Materials*** *Nickel complements cool-toned woods like ash or grey-washed oak and it pairs beautifully with classic stones such as marble and quartzite for a timeless, refined look.* ***Colours*** *Soft greys, crisp whites and deep blue tones enhance the elegant sheen of nickel, while charcoal and navy add contrast for a bold, polished feel.*

GET THE LOOK

Clockwise from top left *Julie Neill ‘Alberto’* ***chandelier*** *in Plaster White, $4290/small, The Montauk Lighting Co. ‘Moroccan Zellige’* ***tiles*** *in Sage (10cm x 10cm), $300/sqm, Desino Tiles & Bathware. ‘Fleur’* ***vases*** *in Clear, from $200/small, Parterre. Elme Living ‘Dixson’* ***tray*** *in Nickel, $99.99, Myer.*

PHOTOGRAPHY **MICHAEL WEE** INTERIOR DESIGN & STYLING **DUET** EDITORIAL STYLIST **OLGA LEWIS**

PHOTOGRAPHY LISA COHEN STYLING TESS NEWMAN-MORRIS

Kitchen lighting

Glow BIG or glow HOME

Expert kitchen lighting ideas and up-and-coming trends to make your space shine

WORDS REBECCA HOOTON

The right lighting can transform a kitchen, enhancing both its practicality and ambience. But where do you start? A well-lit kitchen combines three key layers: ambient lighting for overall illumination, task lighting for work zones and accent lighting to highlight design features. “Lighting plays a crucial role in supporting both function and aesthetics,” says Kate McGlone, group design manager at Winnings, who believes lighting choices should be guided by the overall kitchen design. “Finalise your joinery aesthetics and appliances first, then select light fittings that complement these elements,” explains Kate.

Just as important is understanding how you use the space. “Look at the functionality of your kitchen and how you and your family will use it,” advises Mandi Kontos, architectural lighting designer at South Melbourne Beacon Design Studio. “Do you need more light at the dining table or the island bench? Pick one and really home in on what you want there.”

In this story, we explore the best ways to layer kitchen lighting, from pendants to wall lights, lamps and natural light. Plus, we break down the latest trends and expert-approved tips to create a kitchen that’s as stylish as it is practical.

Seeing double *This kitchen by KWD uses elegant ‘Grosvenor’ pendant lights from The Montauk Lighting Co to tie together twin island benches in this home on the Mornington Peninsula.* >

3

COMMON KITCHEN LIGHTING MISTAKES

Kate McGlone, group design manager at Winnings, shares her insights on common lighting missteps – and how to avoid them.

1

CHOOSING COOL LIGHT OVER WARM

Cool-toned lighting can make a kitchen feel clinical. Warm lighting provides the necessary brightness for tasks while creating a welcoming, inviting atmosphere.

2

LACK OF DIMMABLE LIGHTING

Lighting should be adaptable. Dimmable options let you adjust brightness for cooking, entertaining, or creating a cosy mood.

3

FORGETTING TO HAVE FUN

Lighting is the final touch that brings your kitchen design together. Treat it like an accessory – play with styles, finishes and placements to make it uniquely yours.

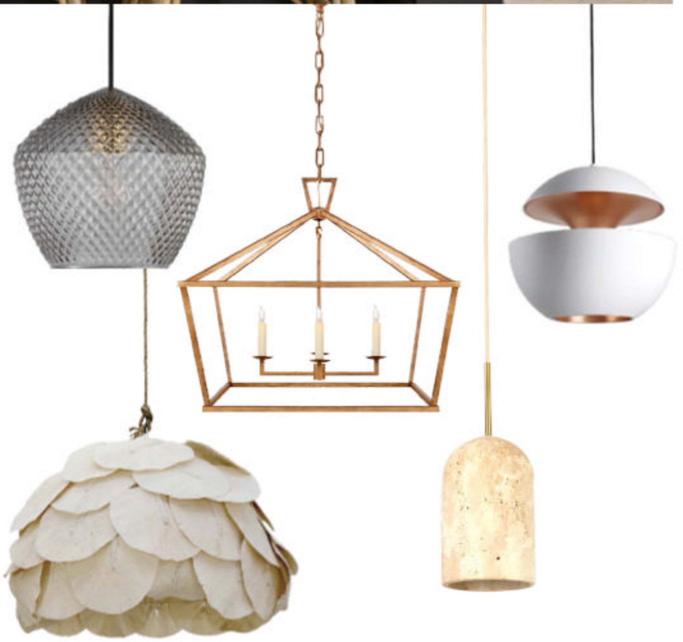
HANG IN THERE

Pendant lights are a stylish and functional way for you to illuminate a kitchen island or benchtop. The key is getting the placement just right. "For pendant lighting, I generally recommend placing it 75–90cm above the benchtop," says Kate. "This ensures enough clearance for functionality while providing ample illumination without obstructing the view of the kitchen. However, the height should be adapted based on the design of the light fixture."

Mandi suggests a practical approach: "You want to have great illumination on your bench but also make sure no-one hits their head. A good rule of thumb is to aim for about a metre off your bench, then see how that feels and looks."

For even lighting, consider using multiple pendants or alternatives like downlights or track lighting. "A pendant shines light directly down onto the bench, or you can use multiple pendants for even illumination," Mandi explains. "Clustering pendants on one side and pairing them with downlights is often overlooked but creates a striking focal point while maintaining full functionality."

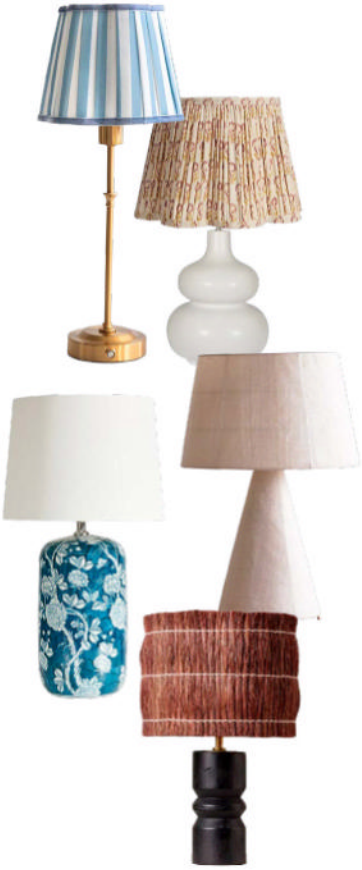
Bold & beautiful *A traditional kitchen by Banbury Design Company (this page) has lanterns from Miguel Meirelles Antiques while the modern cook zone (opposite) by Alisa & Lysandra Interiors features Chapman & Myers 'Darlana' lanterns from The Montauk Lighting Co.*



Pretty PENDANTS

Clockwise, from top left *'Orbiform'* ***pendant****, $165, Lighterior. Chapman & Myers 'Darlana'* ***lantern****, $1890, The Montauk Lighting Co. DCW Editions 'Here Comes The Sun'* ***pendant****, $1950, Winnings. Made by Mayfair 'Rhodes'* ***pendant*** *in Travertine, $495, Beacon Lighting. Bisque Traders 'Sofia'* ***pendant****, $1090, Luxe Lighting.* >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **MINDI COOKE** (OPPOSITE) **JENAH PIWANSKI** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **TAHN SCOON** (OPPOSITE) **ALISA & LYSANDRA INTERIORS**



Alluring LAMPS

From top *Blue stripe scallop shade and gold base USB* ***lamp****, $239, Luxe & Beau. Canvas and Sasson 'Margate'* ***shade****, $119, Home Goods Hardware. Pinch Design 'Gentle Light'* ***lamp****, $6360, Winnings. Canvas and Sasson 'Fiore'* ***lamp****, $379, Home Goods Hardware. 'Ayla'* ***lamp****, $249, Few & Far.*

AMP THE LAMPS

Lamps are emerging as a surprising yet effective addition to kitchen lighting. Once reserved for use in living spaces, they're now being embraced for their ability to add warmth, personality and a softer glow to the heart of the home. "This is another trend that I see coming through more and more – having a lamp as a little nook statement," says Mandi. "You can definitely hardwire the lamp and have it switched with your overhead lights. Or you can hide it behind decorative pieces like boards and trays."

Beyond aesthetics, a well-placed lamp can enhance a kitchen's overall lighting scheme. Kate recommends layering various types of lighting. "Consider separate switching for different light sources, such as integrated joinery lighting, feature pendants or wall lights, and general overhead lighting. This offers greater flexibility, allowing you to tailor the ambience and functionality of your kitchen to suit your needs."

Most importantly, lamps provide an opportunity to have fun with design. "Don't be afraid to experiment and have fun with your choices," says Kate. Whether it's a sculptural piece or a vintage find, a lamp can be a small yet striking detail that elevates the space.

NATURAL TOUCH

Maximising natural light in a kitchen not only enhances its design but also creates a bright, inviting space that feels open and welcoming. Skylights, clerestory windows, and glass splashbacks are all clever ways to bring in more daylight, reducing the need for artificial lighting during the day while complementing your overall lighting scheme.

"Lighting has the power to dramatically enhance and elevate a kitchen design," explains Kate. "I always recommend warm lighting, as it provides the necessary brightness for tasks such as cooking or studying while creating a welcoming and inviting atmosphere." Natural light plays a crucial role in achieving this balance, helping to soften artificial illumination and prevent a space from feeling overly harsh or clinical.

Skylights and clerestory windows introduce daylight from above, making them ideal for kitchens with limited wall space for traditional windows. Glass splashbacks can also be a game-changer, allowing light to filter through while adding a sleek design element. By thoughtfully incorporating these natural light sources, you can create a kitchen that feels bright, comfortable, and effortlessly functional throughout the day.

Keep it simple *Subtle downlights are above the island in this kitchen (this page) that was renovated by artist Cinnamon and her husband Scott while the use of a Paola & Joy 'Cora' lamp makes all the difference in this kitchen (opposite) by Maine House Interiors.* >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **MINDI COOKE** (OPPOSITE) **LISA COHEN**
STYLING (THIS PAGE) **TAHN SCOON** (OPPOSITE) **AMY SPARGO**

5 KITCHEN LIGHTING TRENDS TO WATCH

Mandi Kontos, architectural lighting designer at South Melbourne Beacon Design Studio, shares the latest lighting looks making waves in kitchen design.

1 STATEMENT LAMPS
A stylish and unexpected addition, lamps in kitchen nooks create a warm, inviting glow while adding personality to the space.

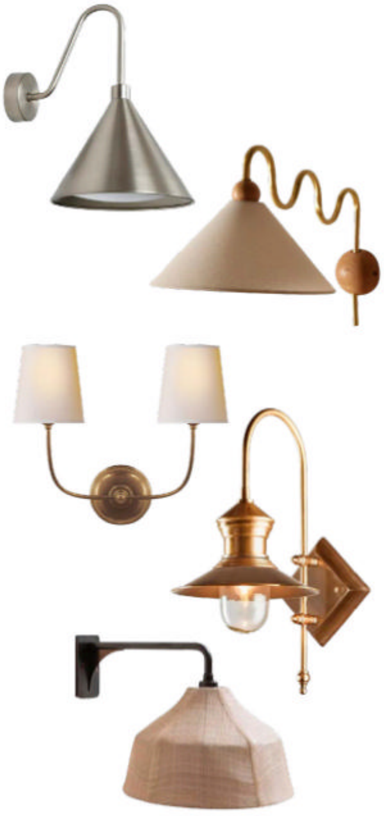
2 TRAVERTINE LIGHTING
This natural stone is making its way into lighting, offering a beautifully textured, organic feel that complements a variety of different kitchen styles.

3 GLASS FEATURES
From smoky to ribbed, coloured to sculptural, glass lighting is evolving beyond the classic clear pendant for a more custom, eye-catching look.

4 CLUSTERING PENDANTS
Asymmetry is in. Grouping pendants to one side instead of centring them creates a striking focal point while maintaining functionality.

5 WALL LIGHT ACCENTS
A growing trend, wall lights beside rangehoods add soft illumination and a decorative touch, balancing task lighting with warmth.

Wonder walls This kitchen (this page) designed by Darren Palmer uses a trio of 'Rome' wall sconces by Temple & Webster to great effect while the rangehood (opposite) in this kitchen by Sarah Yarrow Interiors is flanked by metallic wall lights that provide task lighting.



Wonderful WALL LIGHTS

From top *'Sienna'* ***wall light****, $229, Beacon Lighting. McMullin x Folk Studio 'Robbi'* ***wall sconce****, $449, McMullin. Thomas O'Brien 'Vendome' linen double* ***wall sconce****, $740, Luxe Lighting. Art Deco styled shade* ***wall light****, $1090, Lighting Collective. Pinch Design 'Soren'* ***wall light****, $2615, Winnings.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **KRISTINA ŠOLJO** (OPPOSITE) **THE PALM CO** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **KERRIE-ANN JONES**
ARTWORK (THIS PAGE) **PHOEBE STONE** DECOR (THIS PAGE) **THE DEA STORE, ALL DAY CLAY & TRIT HOUSE**

HIT THE WALL

Once an afterthought in kitchen lighting, wall lights are now having a major moment, adding both style and subtle illumination. "There's a current trend where people are putting wall light accents next to rangehoods or in a little nook," says Mandi. These small but impactful fixtures help to create a warm, inviting glow while enhancing architectural details.

Kate sees decorative lighting as the ideal finishing touch. "Decorative lighting should be a joyful final step in your kitchen design, much like finding the perfect shoes to complete an outfit." Wall lights provide soft illumination, reducing the need for harsh overhead lighting.

Material choice also plays a big role in the appeal of decorative wall lights. "Natural materials continue to dominate in kitchen lighting, with brass and bronze remaining popular choices," says Kate. "In recent times, bronze has been on the rise, surpassing the long-favoured brass. Bronze is highly versatile, offering an understated luxury aesthetic that complements a variety of kitchen styles, from contemporary and traditional to industrial."

Whether they're framing a rangehood or tucked into a cosy corner, wall lights help to bring personality and warmth to the kitchen zone, making them a stylish addition to any space, big or small. HB

Alfresco living

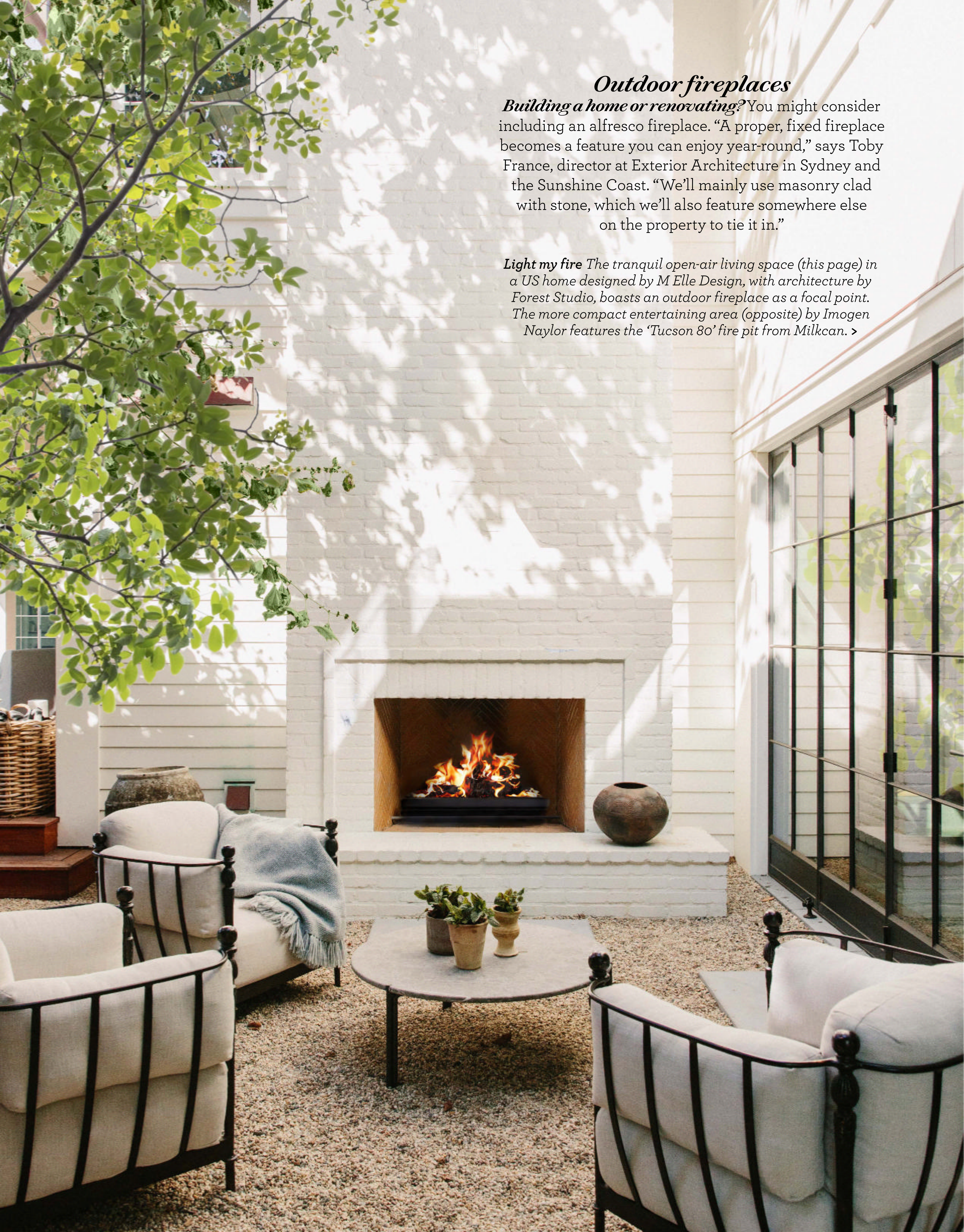
ALL FIRED UP

Extend the use of your outdoor space during winter and experience the joys of an outdoor fireplace or fire pit

WORDS **SUE WHEELER**

As a nation, we are always looking for ways to enjoy our outdoor space and a fire pit delivers this in spades. It adds another dimension to your backyard, allows after-dark entertaining when it's cold and lends an ambience you just can't beat. "Fire pits are an increasingly popular feature in garden designs," says Henry Chapple-Cox, senior associate at Secret Gardens in Sydney. "They give people another great 'excuse' to be drawn outside away from the deck and experience their garden in a more immersive way." And the good news is, you don't need a big budget or a big garden. Hold the marshmallows as our experts set the scene for the perfect fire pit experience.

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **PRUE RUSCOE** (OPPOSITE) **MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA**



Outdoor fireplaces

Building a home or renovating? You might consider including an alfresco fireplace. “A proper, fixed fireplace becomes a feature you can enjoy year-round,” says Toby France, director at Exterior Architecture in Sydney and the Sunshine Coast. “We’ll mainly use masonry clad with stone, which we’ll also feature somewhere else on the property to tie it in.”

Light my fire *The tranquil open-air living space (this page) in a US home designed by M Elle Design, with architecture by Forest Studio, boasts an outdoor fireplace as a focal point. The more compact entertaining area (opposite) by Imogen Naylor features the ‘Tucson 80’ fire pit from Milkcan.* **>**

Planning your fire pit

Comply before your buy Before the good times roll, make sure you tick the boxes on any regulations. At state level, lighting an outdoor fire pit is generally legal without a permit, but you'll need to confirm this, along with any local council requirements, such as its distance from flammable materials and approved fuel types. If you live in an apartment, consult your strata association first.

A safe distance Fire pits with an open flame need to be a safe distance from your house and any flammable structures, including awnings, pergolas, overhanging tree branches or nearby utility lines. Depending on the environment, that's likely between three and five metres. Fire pits using gas or ethanol (even those not enclosed by glass) are usually safer to use closer to your home, near swimming pools and in some covered areas.

Ground rules Above-ground fire pits are best placed on gravel, pavers or a heat-resistant concrete base. Designs with stands or plinths are good options for protecting surfaces from direct heat. "We don't usually advise having it directly on grass as it can scorch and be a fire hazard," explains Henry.

FIRE PIT SAFETY TIPS

1 *Before use, check for total fire bans and other restrictions with your local fire authorities.*

2 *Only burn 'seasoned' (dried) wood and avoid burning any rubbish.*

3 *Have access to a water source for extinguishing the fire and make sure all family members know how to do this.*

4 *Never leave your fire unattended or leave young children without supervision.*

5 *Ensure your fire pit is properly constructed and well-maintained.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **NICHOLAS WATT** (OPPOSITE) **THE UNFOLD**

Bright spark Zoysia tenuifolia planted between Eco Outdoor 'Garonne' pavers adds softness to a sleek outdoor hearth (this page) by Exterior Architecture. Strike a match A fire drum in Corten steel from Hibernate Outdoors warms this hideaway (opposite) by Secret Gardens.

Designing your fire pit

To make the most of your garden's new entertaining zone, consider space, layout and the style of your fire pit

A sense of space "When choosing the location of your fire pit, remember it's about enticing people outdoors. You want to strike a balance: not too close to the house and not too far away that you barely use it," says Henry. "Before you pick a specific design, consider what's possible within your space, including its proportions and whether the scale of a fire pit and surrounding area will work within this." When it comes to the area around your fire pit, how do you want to use it and what's your seating plan? "Don't go crazy in a small area. A setting that's too compact feels as if you're sitting on top of the fire," adds Henry.

Portable or permanent? If you have plenty of space, a permanent set up works well. "This opens the door to in-ground designs and permanent seating in timber or sandstone, which looks beautiful and blends well with green surroundings and country settings," explains landscape designer Snezana Bellotti of Snazzy Gardens. When alfresco space is tight, portable fire pits make sense, whether that's a bioethanol design, or a wood-burning fire pit. "We often suggest a flexible area: enjoy a fire pit during the winter, then move it during the summer and use the space for another activity. Alternatively, a design with a lid will turn it into a table or a grill plate to create a cooking zone," shares Toby of this smart, multi-tasking option.

Please be seated Corner seating is another space-saving option, allowing you to swap an outdoor table for a fire pit when the mood takes you. Remember, your fire pit seating doesn't have to be permanent; you could simply pull up chairs or stools when you need them. "However, comfort is important for encouraging people to spend time here," adds Henry. "Have cushions on hard seats and a backrest if the design allows." Cosy blankets can also set the mood. >

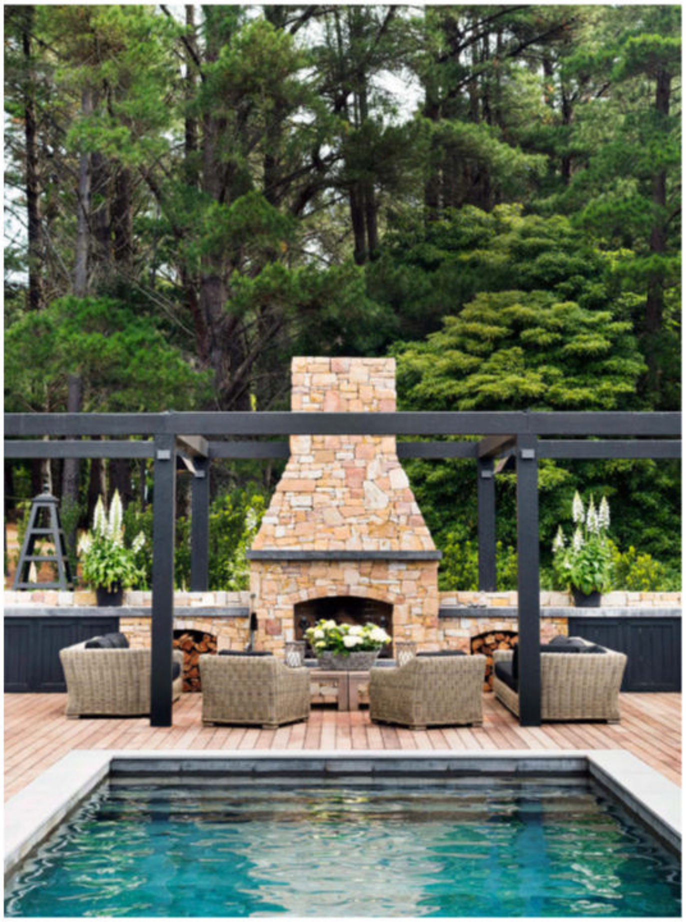
Find your style

Be choosey The shopping list of fire pits has grown along with their popularity and there's now something for every space, style and budget, from a $100 black steel pit from Bunnings to elaborate designs that cost thousands.

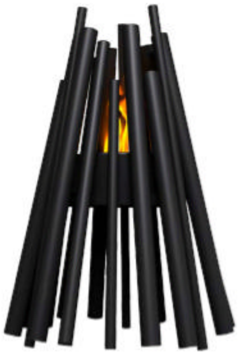
Questions to ask Do you want your fire pit to be square or circular, in-built or portable, raised or near ground level? Are you after something simple and rustic that reminds you of childhood camping trips, a more sophisticated design, or even a permanent outdoor fireplace?

Complement your home "Aim to complement the style of your home and its surroundings," says Toby. "In terms of materials, sandstone looks great with a country or Hamptons home, or you might choose a concrete for a contemporary home with more architectural features."

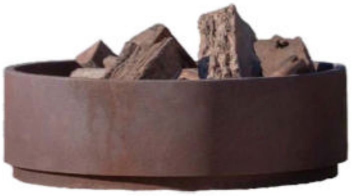
Get connected "Fire pits look their best if they are 'grounded' in the space," advises Henry. "Connecting the design and the material to the garden in some way creates a sense of belonging. For a more immersive experience – and if you have enough lawn – you could cut into a garden bed and create an area around the fire pit with plants and gravel or pavers."



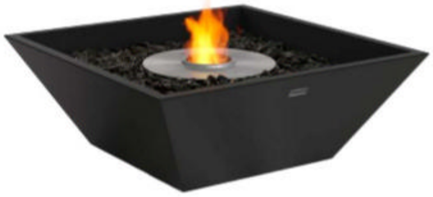
SHOPPING



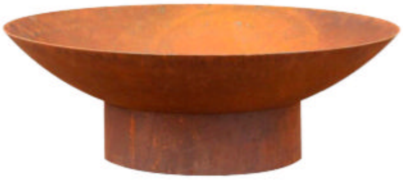
*'Stix 8' portable **fire pit**, $2995, EcoSmart Fire.*



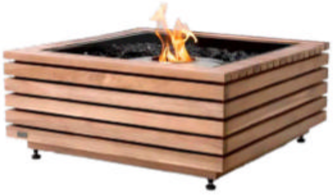
***'Firedrum'**, $1909, Hibernate.*



*'Nova 600' ethanol **fire pit**, $995, Milkcan.*



*'Tucson 80' **fire pit** in Rust, $339, Milkcan.*



*EcoSmart Fire ethanol 'Base 30' **fire pit**, $2845, Remarkable Outdoor Living.*

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) MARTINA GEMMOLA (OPPOSITE) JENNA KENSEY

***Eternal flame** Clad in a ring of ironstone, a Jumbuck fire pit from Bunnings pairs perfectly with mountain gravel mix in a beautiful Blue Mountains home (this page). **Cosy & cool** An outdoor entertaining zone by landscape designer Paul Bangay celebrates the work of local stonemasons with the striking fireplace (opposite).*

ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE

***Wood fires burn** dry, seasoned wood. While most of us love the atmosphere of a wood-burning fire, they do produce a lot of smoke (which has associated health risks). Charcoal, heat beads and briquettes are easier to light and create less smoke.* ***Gas fire pits use** LPG or Natural Gas. Gas fire pits tend to be more expensive, and those at the luxury end can even be compatible with smart home apps. You won't get ash or embers, but they don't generate as much heat as wood fires. Some designs are suitable for balconies. Check with local councils for any regulations.* ***Ethanol is a clear,** low-odour, colourless liquid. Fire pits with an in-built ethanol fuel reservoir offer similar benefits to gas fires, but are often more cost-effective. 'Bioethanol' is a renewable and sustainable fuel.* **HB**

Buyer's guide

12 *clever* COFFEE MACHINES

Enjoy perfect coffee at home with our pick of the best benchtop brewing machines

WORDS **JANE PARBURY**

Whether you love a latte or adore an Americano, a home coffee machine can make it happen. But, with a huge selection ranging from quick, convenient capsule machines to state of the art appliances that brew fresh beans, how do you know which one's ideal for you?

"The best way to choose one is to think about how you like your coffee and how much effort you want to put in," suggests Amy Voeten, customer service manager at Alternative Brewing. "If you mostly drink milk-based coffee (like lattes and cappuccinos), you'll want a machine that steams milk well. If you're more of a straight espresso drinker, a single-boiler machine can be a great option."

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **MAREE HOMER, COURTESY OF THREE BIRDS RENOVATIONS** (OPPOSITE) **MARTINA GEMMOLA, COURTESY OF CANTILEVER INTERIORS** ARTWORK (THIS PAGE) **WHITNEY SPICER**

In-built milk steamers and grinders ensure a fresh cuppa from these benchtop beauties by Breville (this page) and DeLonghi (opposite). >

Consider how much control you want when making your coffee. With capsule models, you simply pop in the pod and away you go. Fully automatic bean versions are straightforward to operate, semi-automatic ones require you to be a little more hands on, and manual appliances generally require the most interaction. “Some machines are great for beginners because they focus on the basics – consistent temperature and pressure for great espresso,” explains Amy. “Others offer more advanced features (like flow control) for those who love to experiment.”

One of the biggest game changers for coffee lovers, however, is a good grinder, says Amy. “The machine is only half the story – without freshly ground coffee and a quality burr grinder, even the best machine won’t deliver great results,” she says. Here, we’ve done the legwork so you don’t have to – read on for our selection.

KitchenAid
11:16

For cohesion, take cues from this KitchenAid coffee machine and match the finish of your espresso maker to your kitchen appliances.

PHOTOGRAPHY ALANA LANDSBERRY

capsule MACHINES

***Vertuo Creatista by Breville**, $1099, Nespresso. Fuelled by Nespresso coffee capsules, this easy-to-operate machine is guided by each capsule's barcode to adjust the water, temperature and length of infusion to deliver just the right extraction.*

***Vertuo Pop**, $229, Nespresso. This little beauty offers fun colour choices, six cup sizes and a nod to the environment with its construction, which uses 35 per cent recycled plastic. Simple to function, add on an Aeroccino3 Milk Frother for foamy cuppas.*

***Genio S Plus**, $179, Nescafé Dolce Gusto. One of the best things about capsule coffee is the speed with which it provides your morning java, and this other-worldy machine pours in seconds at the touch of a button.*

home BARISTA

***Jura J8 Twin Automatic Coffee Machine**, $3699, Harvey Norman. Busy household? This automatic machine with twin grinders can brew two coffees at once, plus the intuitive control panel lets you set your coffee preferences.*

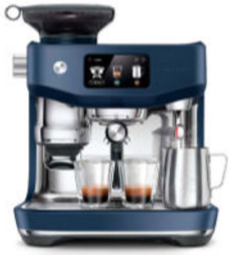
***La Specialista Touch Coffee Machine**, $1099, DeLonghi. This is classed as manual but a clever touch screen takes you through a seamless coffee-making process, whatever the type, size, temperature and strength of your preferred cup.*

***Barista Touch Impress**, $2299, Breville. This was the first of its kind to deliver plant-based milk as frothy as dairy – no mean feat as the likes of oat, almond and soy milks need treating differently to produce microfoam.* >

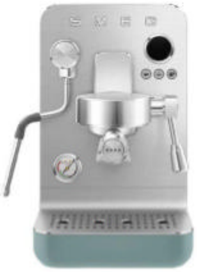
Position your benchtop espresso machine near your mugs and teacups and within easy reach of the fridge for a fuss-free coffee ritual at home.

> "THINK ABOUT HOW YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE AND HOW MUCH EFFORT YOU WANT TO PUT IN"
>
> **AMY VOETEN, ALTERNATIVE BREWING**

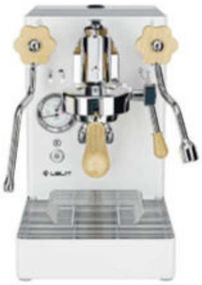
stylish MACHINES



Breville the Oracle Jet Coffee Machine, *$3299, Harvey Norman. With auto grind, dose and tamp, this machine is a breeze to use and it has milk settings that are optimised for soy, almond and oat milk.*

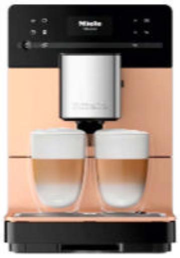


Minipro Espresso Coffee Machine, *$2399, Smeg. Some of the great features of this machine include the triple thermoblock system that quickly heats the machine and ensures temperature-controlled extraction and a shot timer.*

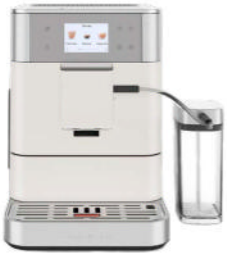


Lelit MaraX, *$2599, Alternative Brewing. This compact machine packs in the features, including adjustable pre-set brewing temperature control, pre-infusion, and uniquely, brew and steam priority modes.*

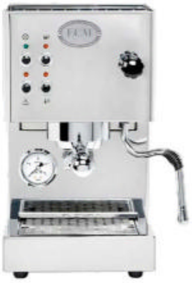
mid RANGE



CM5510 Silence benchtop coffee machine, *$1799, Miele. Fully automatic, this is programmable so you can create a brew the way you like it, while the One Touch for Two system lets you create two cups at a time.*



KF7 Fully-Automatic Espresso Machine, *$2199, KitchenAid. The KF7 has 20-plus coffee recipes via an easy-to-use colour display, with options you can personalise and store according to strength, volume and temperature.*



ECM Casa V, *$1495, Alternative Brewing. This single-boiler machine has an adjustable pressure gauge so you can fine tune your brew to your taste, but then you can simply start the process with one touch of the button.* HB

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP LEFT) COURTESY OF NORDISKA KÖK

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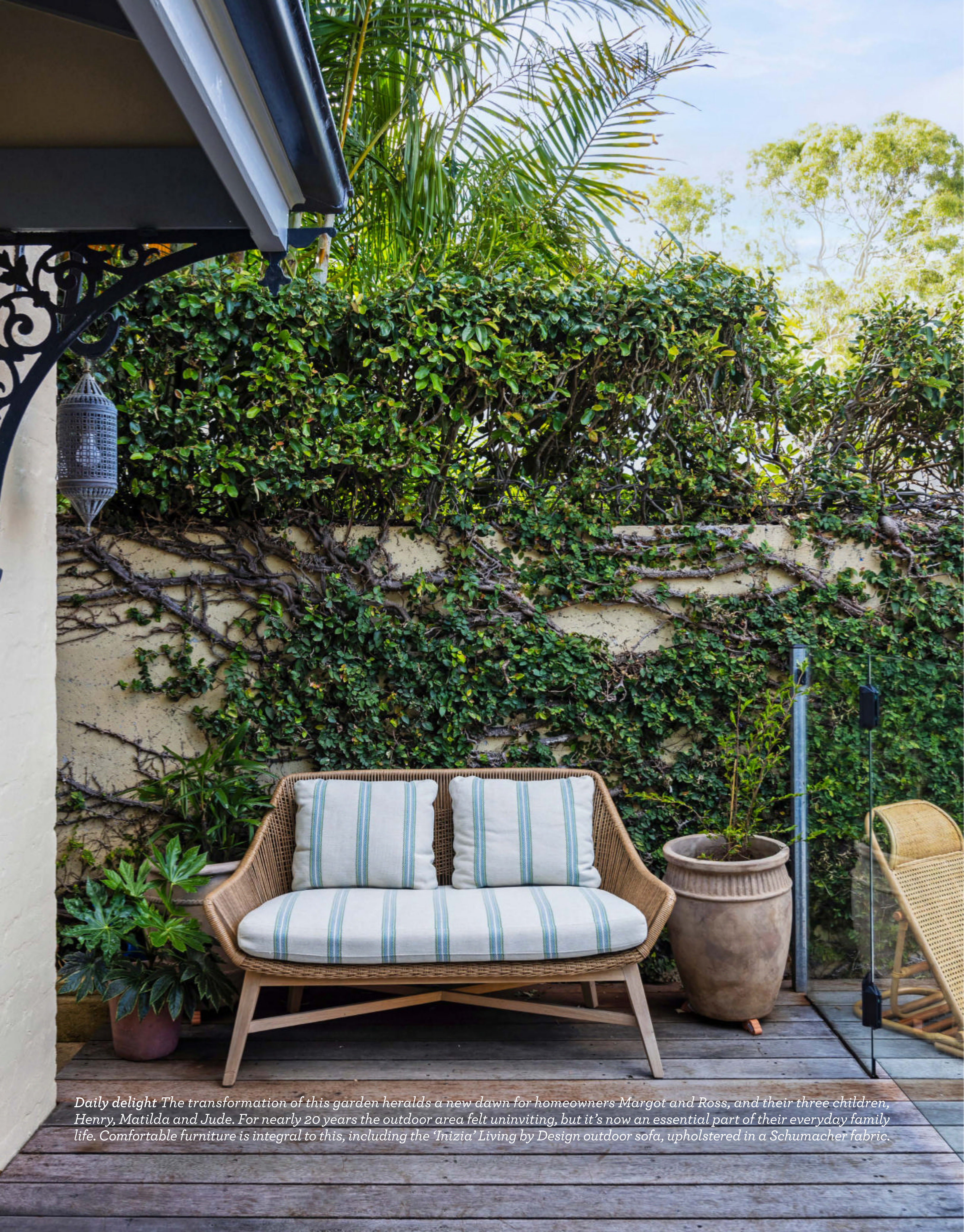
BEAUTIFUL

GARDENS

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR STYLISH OUTDOOR LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON WHITBREAD

IN GOOD TIME
PAGE 130



Daily delight *The transformation of this garden heralds a new dawn for homeowners Margot and Ross, and their three children, Henry, Matilda and Jude. For nearly 20 years the outdoor area felt uninviting, but it's now an essential part of their everyday family life. Comfortable furniture is integral to this, including the 'Inizia' Living by Design outdoor sofa, upholstered in a Schumacher fabric.*

IN GOOD TIME

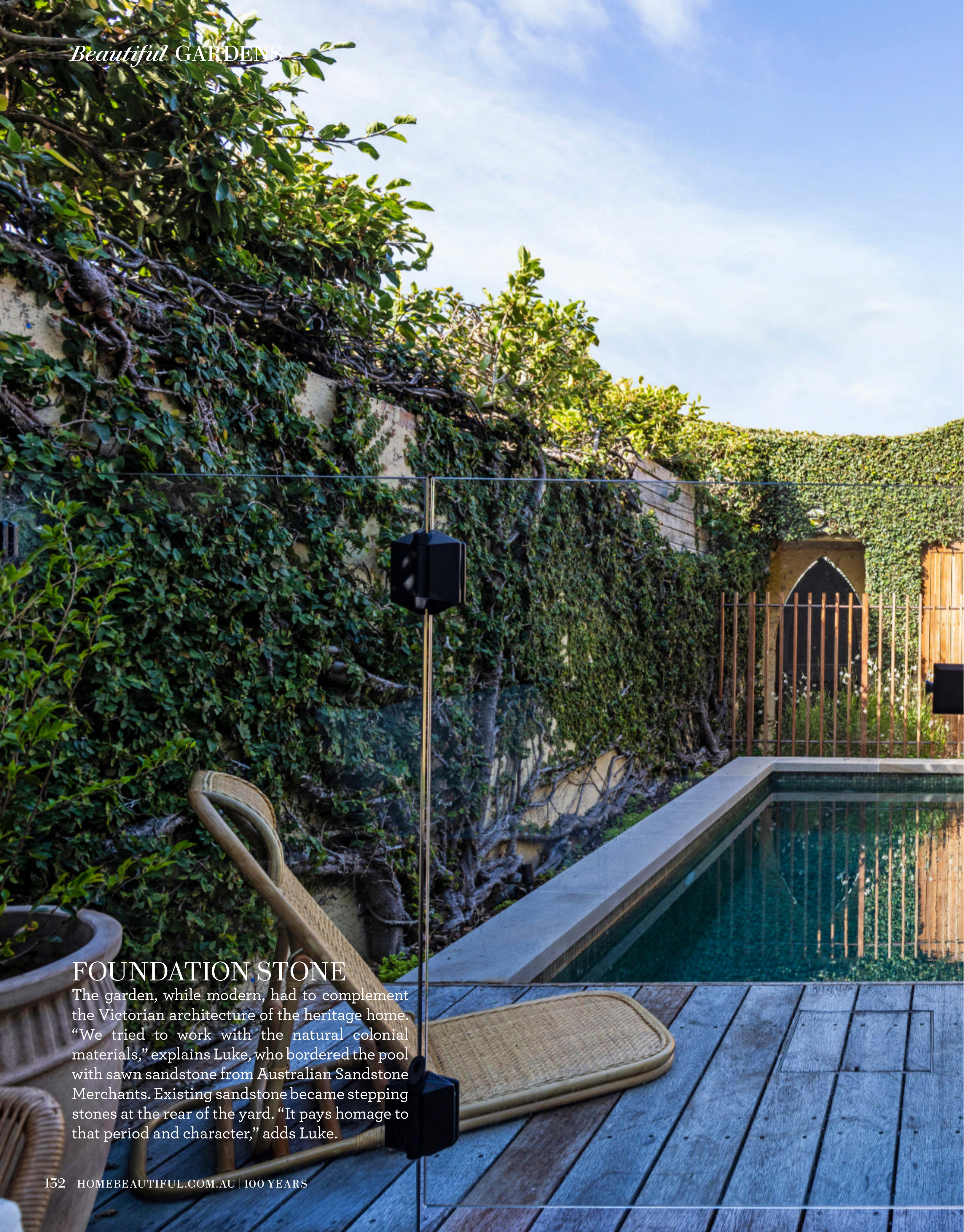
It took nearly 20 years for this garden to receive the transformation the owners dreamt of and the results were worth it

STORY **BRITTANY SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON WHITBREAD**

Life got in the way. That's the story behind the 19-year delay with this garden makeover. "We had tossed up the idea of putting in a pool and doing up the garden for years," says homeowner Margot of the discussions she had with her husband, Ross. "But we moved in, had three kids, two dogs. We got distracted with family and work." In the meantime, the garden remained untidy and tired. A magnolia tree took up a lot of space and the hedging around the perimeter felt confining. Even their children, Henry, 22, Matilda, 19, and Jude, 13, plus Labradoodles George and Ringo, didn't spend much time outside. After almost two decades, Margot and Ross decided it was high time for a change.

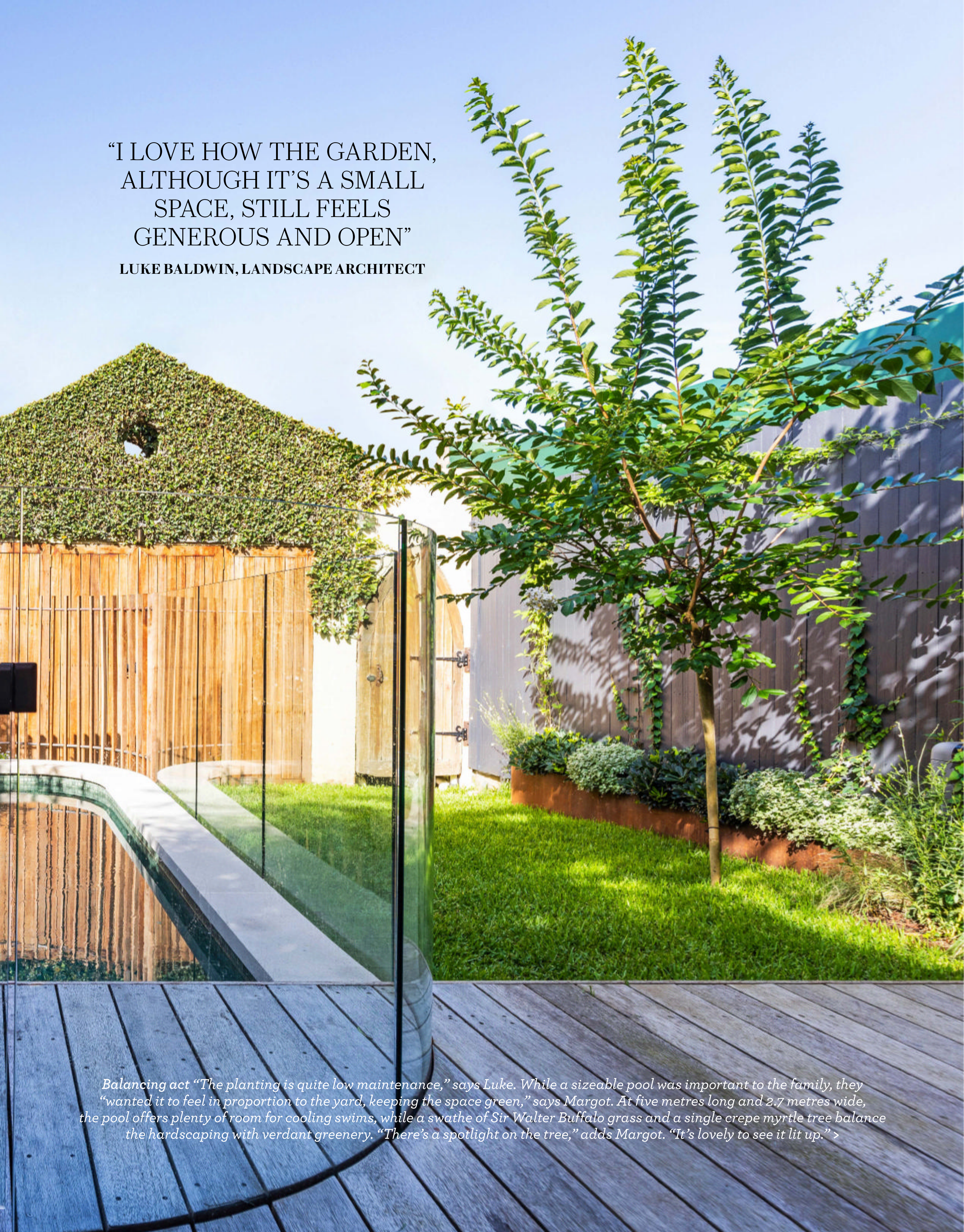
Landscape design and construction company Formed Gardens came recommended by friends, so the couple reached out to them and started the process. However, they faced another delay. They lived in a heritage home in Sydney's Inner West, so once plans were submitted to council, it still took nearly nine months for them to be approved. Finally, Formed Gardens director Luke Baldwin began building the garden Margot and Ross had dreamt of for so many years.

The brief called for a pool as big as the space would allow, without overwhelming the garden. The magnolia tree was removed to accommodate it, with a crepe myrtle tree planted on the opposite side of the yard. Another must-have was an outdoor kitchen with a built-in barbecue, plus an alfresco dining area on the deck. "We recycled the timber from the previous deck, sanded back and freshened up," says Margot. A curved glass fence cuts through the hardwood decking, >



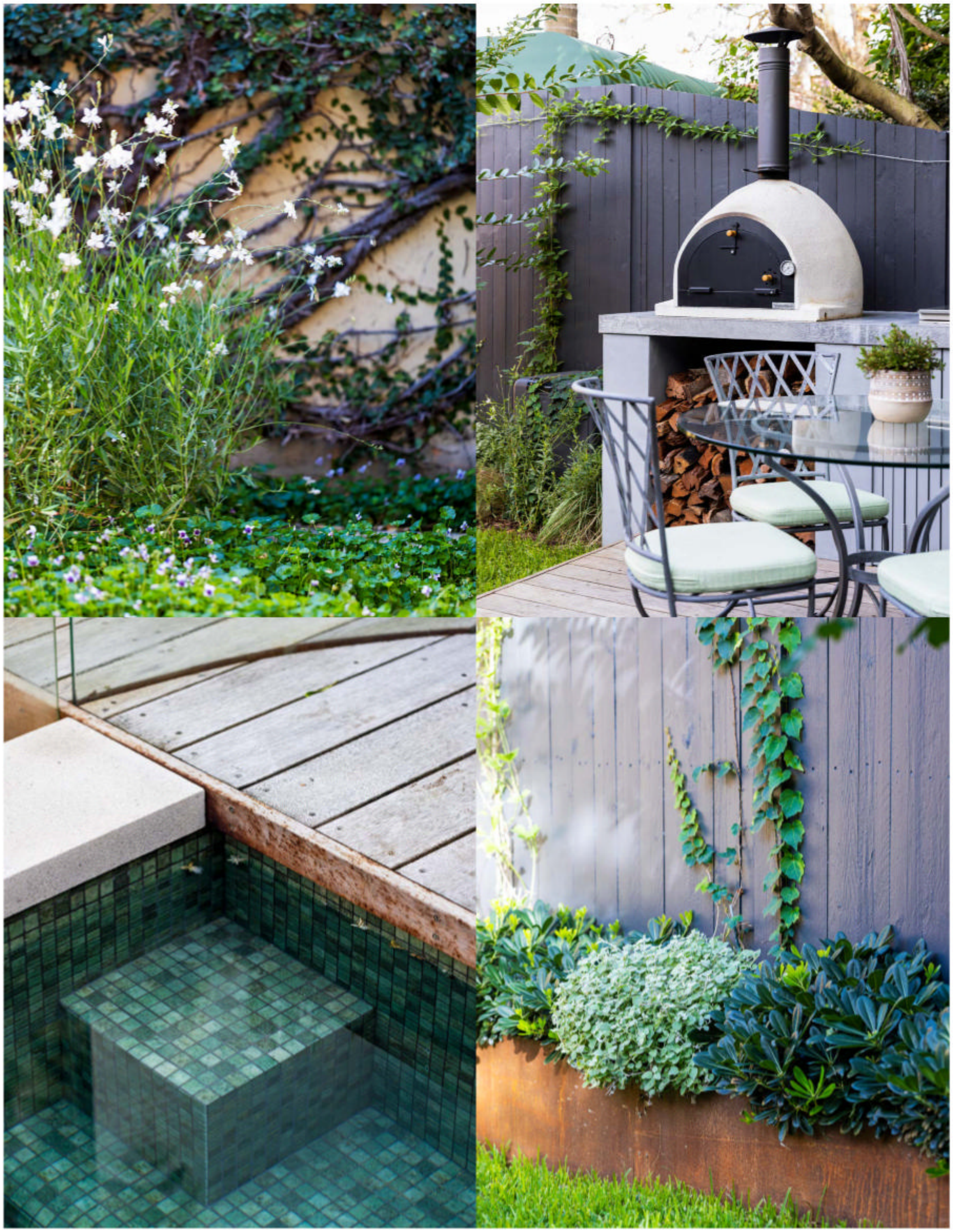
FOUNDATION STONE

The garden, while modern, had to complement the Victorian architecture of the heritage home. "We tried to work with the natural colonial materials," explains Luke, who bordered the pool with sawn sandstone from Australian Sandstone Merchants. Existing sandstone became stepping stones at the rear of the yard. "It pays homage to that period and character," adds Luke.



> “I LOVE HOW THE GARDEN, ALTHOUGH IT’S A SMALL SPACE, STILL FEELS GENEROUS AND OPEN”
>
> **LUKE BALDWIN, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

Balancing act *“The planting is quite low maintenance,” says Luke. While a sizeable pool was important to the family, they “wanted it to feel in proportion to the yard, keeping the space green,” says Margot. At five metres long and 2.7 metres wide, the pool offers plenty of room for cooling swims, while a swathe of Sir Walter Buffalo grass and a single crepe myrtle tree balance the hardscaping with verdant greenery. “There’s a spotlight on the tree,” adds Margot. “It’s lovely to see it lit up.”* >

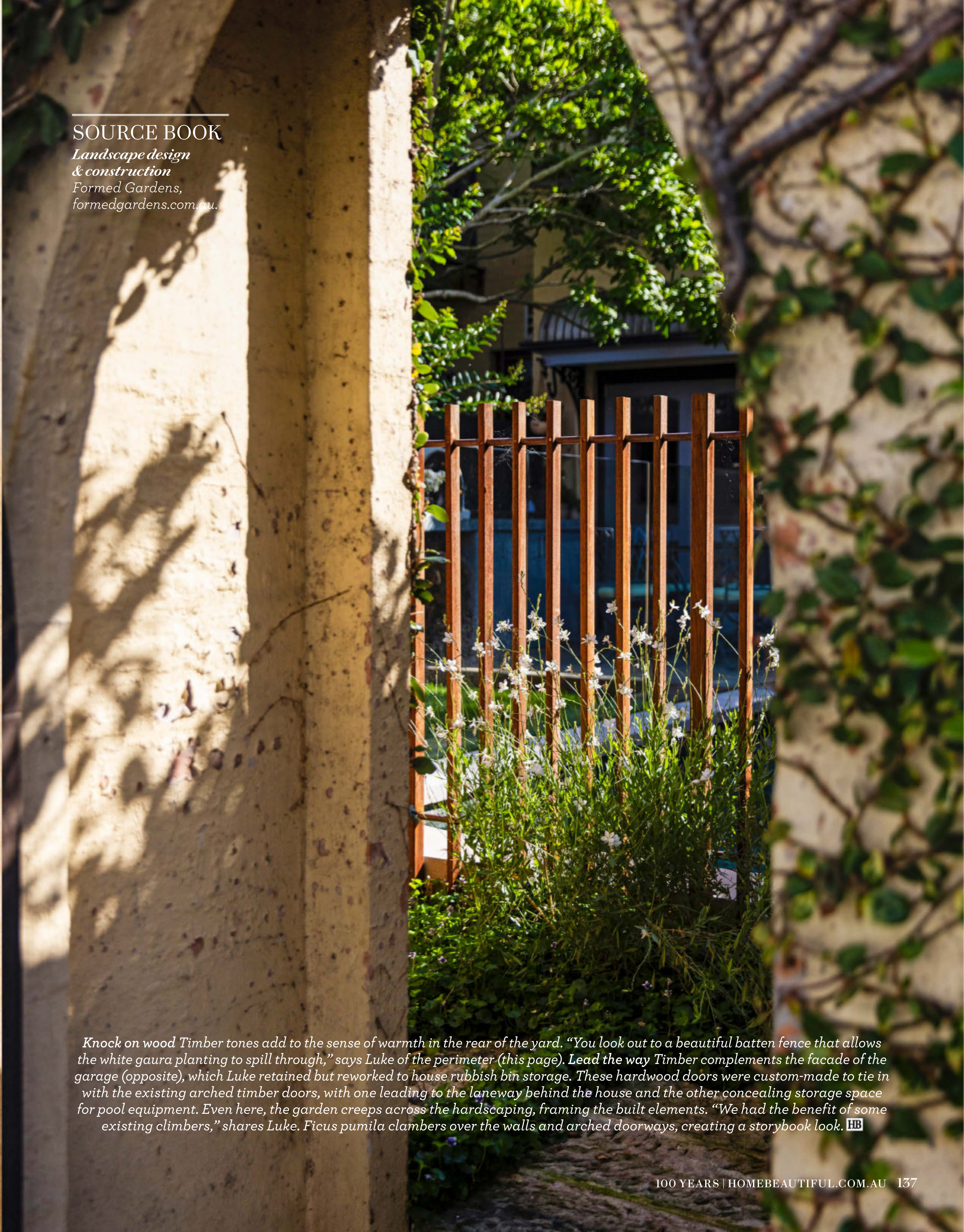


Ground control *Viola hederacea provides flowering groundcover between the sandstone pavers, while Gaura lindheimeri adds height and movement as it catches the breeze (top left).* ***Order up*** *Formed Gardens built the outdoor kitchen (top right), which is one of Luke's favourite features. "I love the look and feel of it," he says. The varied shades of grey complement the silver tones of the timber decking. A pizza oven from Pizza Ovens R-Us and a built-in barbecue give the gift of delicious meals, which the family enjoy from the Le Forge outdoor dining furniture.* ***Zen zone*** *Square 'Bali Stone' mosaic tiles from Barefoot Living create a calming mood in the pool (bottom left & opposite).* ***Edge of glory*** *Shapescaper weathering steel from Ideal Edging adds rustic charm to the garden beds (bottom right). The silver-grey foliage of licorice plant contrasts beautifully between the delightfully named Pittosporum tobira 'Miss Muffet'.*

forming a small but significant detail that visually links the poolside tableau with the alfresco cooking and dining zones. Beyond it, the pool stretches from the deck to the rear wall.

The hardscaping palette exists harmoniously with the garden's new planting scheme. Green-blue pool tiles nod to the tonal foliage that grows against the opposite wall, while sweet-scented Armand clematis climbs over the fence and softens the perimeter. The fence, in turn, is finished in the same shade as the home's exterior trims. There's an easy flow between all these different zones, and the garden's enjoyment is enhanced by the low-maintenance nature of the plantings.

In the end, the project progressed smoothly and was completed within a short six months, and the family couldn't be happier. "We sit outside every night and have dinner, which we didn't do before," shares Margot. "We use the pool all year round, adults and kids, because it's heated." It truly is the dream garden they had all longed for, which now fills their daily lives with joy. It just took 20 years to get there. >



SOURCE BOOK

Landscape design & construction
Formed Gardens, formedgardens.com.au.

***Knock on wood** Timber tones add to the sense of warmth in the rear of the yard. "You look out to a beautiful batten fence that allows the white gaura planting to spill through," says Luke of the perimeter (this page). **Lead the way** Timber complements the facade of the garage (opposite), which Luke retained but reworked to house rubbish bin storage. These hardwood doors were custom-made to tie in with the existing arched timber doors, with one leading to the laneway behind the house and the other concealing storage space for pool equipment. Even here, the garden creeps across the hardscaping, framing the built elements. "We had the benefit of some existing climbers," shares Luke. Ficus pumila clambers over the walls and arched doorways, creating a storybook look.* HB

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BEAUTIFUL FOOD

EASY AND DELICIOUS FOOD TO SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

CONDENSED MILK
RICE PUDDING
WITH COLD DRIP
GRANITA
See page 147

PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES MOFFATT

MAGIC
BEANS
PAGE 140 →

CAPPUCINO COOKIES
See page 144

Magic beans

Take your favourite brew and put it in a dessert for a pick-me-up like no other at any time of day

RECIPES **JESSICA BROOK** | STYLING **STEVE PEARCE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JAMES MOFFATT**

FLOURLESS COFFEE, DATE & HAZELNUT CAKE WITH COFFEE BUTTERSCOTCH
See page 142

Flourless coffee, date & hazelnut cake with coffee butterscotch

SERVES 10–12

Prep 30 minutes Cooking 1 hour 20 minutes

200g dried pitted dates, roughly chopped
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
½ cup (125ml) hot espresso coffee
6 eggs, separated
½ cup (110g) firmly packed brown sugar
4½ cups (540g) hazelnut meal

Coffee butterscotch
1 cup (220g) caster sugar
¼ cup (60ml) water
80g unsalted butter, chopped
¼ cup (60ml) single cream
2 tbsp strong espresso coffee

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Line a 24cm round tin with non-stick baking paper. Place the dates, bicarbonate of soda and coffee in a medium bowl and set aside for 5 minutes. Transfer to a small food processor and process until smooth.
2 Place the egg yolks and ¼ cup of sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer and whisk on high speed for 7 minutes or until pale and thick. Add the date mixture and hazelnut meal and fold to combine.
3 Place the egg whites and remaining sugar in a clean bowl of the electric mixer and whisk on high speed for 5 minutes, until stiff peaks form.
4 Fold the egg white mixture into the date mixture in 4 batches. Spoon into the tin and smooth the top. Bake for 1 hour 10 minutes – 1 hour 20 minutes or until just a few crumbs are attached when tested with a skewer. Allow to cool completely in the tin.
5 Meanwhile, to make the coffee butterscotch, place the sugar and water in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Increase the heat to high and bring to the boil. Cook, without stirring, for 7–8 minutes or until thickened.
6 Remove from the heat, carefully add the butter, cream and coffee and carefully stir to combine. Return to high heat and stir until smooth. Allow to cool at room temperature.
7 Place the cake on a cake stand or plate and spread with the butterscotch to serve.

Espresso martini cheesecake

SERVES 10–12

Prep 30 minutes, plus chilling and setting
Cooking 1 hour 30 minutes

200g plain chocolate biscuits
2 tbsp ground coffee beans (or 1 tbsp instant coffee granules)
75g unsalted butter, melted
250g cream cheese, at room temperature
1 cup (220g) caster sugar
750g firm ricotta
3 large eggs, at room temperature
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 tbsp strong brewed espresso
1 tbsp cornflour
300ml sour cream at room temperature
2 tbsp caster sugar
2 tbsp milk
Coffee beans, to serve (optional)

Espresso martini syrup
¼ cup (60ml) strong espresso coffee
¼ cup (55g) caster sugar
1 tbsp vodka
1 tbsp coffee liqueur

1 Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C fan-forced). Grease a 22cm (base measurement) round springform pan and line the base and side with baking paper. Process biscuits and coffee in a food processor until finely crushed. Add the butter and process until well combined. Spoon into prepared pan, pressing down with a flat-based glass. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or until firm. Bake for 10 minutes until dry to the touch. Set aside to cool completely.
2 Place cream cheese and sugar in a clean food processor. Process until smooth, add ricotta, eggs and vanilla, scrape down the bowl and process again to combine. Combine espresso and cornflour in a small bowl and whisk until smooth. Add the coffee mixture and pulse until just combined.
3 Pour over the cooled base. Place the cheesecake on a baking tray. Bake for 1 hour 10 minutes or until set around the edge but still wobbly in the centre. Set aside.
4 Put the sour cream, caster sugar and milk in a mixing bowl and stir to combine. Pour over the cheesecake, then return to the oven and bake for a further 10 minutes. Turn the oven off, open the door slightly and leave the cheesecake inside for an hour. Place in the fridge for 2 hours or overnight to chill.
5 For the syrup, place coffee and sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a simmer and cook for 8–10 minutes until sugar dissolves and mixture is syrupy. Add vodka and coffee liqueur. Cool completely. Serve drizzled with syrup and scattered with coffee beans, if using. >

ESPRESSO MARTINI
CHEESECAKE
See opposite

Cappucino cookies

MAKES 25

Prep 30 minutes, plus chilling Cooking 15 minutes

- 125g unsalted butter, melted
- ¾ cup (165g) firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 2 tbsp black strap molasses
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups (300g) plain flour
- 2 tbsp instant coffee granules
- 1 tsp bicarbonate soda
- ½ tsp table salt
- ½ cup (110g) granulated white sugar
- Chocolate covered coffee beans, to decorate
- Cocoa powder, to dust

Cream cheese frosting

- 100g unsalted butter, room temperature
- 200g cream cheese, room temperature
- ¾ cup (240g) icing sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste

1 Place butter, sugar and molasses in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 6 minutes, or until pale. Add the egg and beat for 2 minutes, or until combined. Add flour, coffee, bicarbonate soda and salt and beat on low until a stiff dough. Refrigerate the dough for 2 hours, or until firm.
2 Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced) and line 2 large baking trays with non-stick baking paper. Working one at a time, roll the dough into tablespoon sized balls. Roll into granulated sugar and place on trays 3cm apart and press flat.
3 Bake for 10–12 minutes, or until the cookies are golden but still soft. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on the tray for 10 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely (they will continue to firm on cooling).
4 To make the frosting, place butter and cream cheese in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 6 minutes, or until soft and fluffy. Add icing sugar and vanilla bean paste on low speed until combined. Increase speed and beat for 6 minutes, until light and fluffy. Spoon into a piping bag fitted with a 1cm star nozzle. Pipe onto cookies. Top with coffee bean and dust with cocoa powder and serve.

TIP You can refrigerate the dough for up to 3 days. The cookies will be soft when they come straight from the oven. They will firm to a chewy consistency once cooled.

White chocolate mocha custard tart

SERVES 8

Prep 30 minutes, plus chilling Cooking 1 hour 20 minutes

Coffee custard

- 450ml thickened cream
- 100ml strong coffee, cooled
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ cup (110g) firmly packed brown sugar
- 10 egg yolks
- 200g white chocolate, melted and cooled
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- Dutch cocoa powder, to dust

Shortcrust pastry

- 1¼ cups (190g) plain flour
- 40g almond meal
- ¼ cup (40g) icing sugar
- 125g unsalted butter, chopped and chilled
- 1 egg yolk
- 3–4 tsp iced water

1 For the pastry, combine flour, almond meal and sugar in a food processor and pulse to combine. Add the butter and pulse until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add egg yolk and water and pulse until the mixture just comes together.
2 Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and gently knead until just smooth. Shape into a disc.
3 Use a rolling pin to roll pastry out on a lightly floured surface to a 3mm-thick disc. Line a 30cm x 20cm fluted tart tin with removable base with pastry, trim the edges. Refrigerate for 30 minutes, to chill.
4 Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan-forced). Place the tart on a baking tray. Line with baking paper and fill with pastry weights or rice. Bake for 12 minutes. Remove paper and weights or rice and bake for a further 12 minutes or until the pastry is light golden and dry. Set aside. Reduce oven temperature to 150°C (120°C fan-forced).
5 For the filling, place cream, coffee and half the sugar in a saucepan over medium heat and bring to a simmer.
6 Place egg yolks and remaining sugar in a bowl and whisk to combine. Pour hot cream over the egg yolks and whisk until smooth. Strain through a fine meshed sieve. Pour into the tart shell and bake for 50 minutes–1 hour, until the custard is just set with a gentle wobble. Allow to cool to room temperature. Refrigerate until cold.
7 Combine melted chocolate and oil together. Pour over tart and refrigerate for 2 hours, or until set. Dust the top with cocoa powder. Using a warm knife, cut into squares, to serve.

TIP To create the diagonal pattern with cocoa powder, use a piece of paper as the template. >

WHITE CHOCOLATE
MOCHA CUSTARD TART
See opposite

COFFEE FUDGE CAKE WITH TOASTED COFFEE MERINGUE

See opposite

Coffee fudge cake with toasted coffee meringue

SERVES 16

Prep 30 minutes, plus chilling Cooking 50 minutes

8 eggs, at room temperature
450g dark chocolate, finely chopped
225g unsalted butter, chopped
¼ cup (15g) instant coffee
¼ cup (60ml) coffee liqueur
1 tsp vanilla extract

Coffee meringue

1 cup (220g) caster sugar
¼ cup (60ml) water
1 tbsp instant coffee
3 egg whites, at room temperature

1 Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C fan-forced). Line the base and sides of a lightly greased 24cm (base measurement) springform tin with non-stick baking paper. Wrap the outside of the tin in three layers of foil. Place in large roasting tray. Set aside.
2 Place the eggs in the bowl of an electric mixer and whisk on high speed for 5 minutes, or until doubled in volume.
3 Meanwhile, place the chocolate, butter, coffee and liqueur in a small saucepan over low heat and stir for 4 minutes, or until chocolate and butter have melted and the mixture is smooth.
4 Place in large bowl. In three batches, fold the egg mixture into the chocolate until combined. Pour into the tin.
5 Carefully pour boiling water in the roasting tin to come halfway up the sides of the cake tin. Place in oven and bake for 35–40 minutes, or until the edges are just starting to set and the surface is just set with a wobble.
6 Remove from the oven, and carefully remove the cake from the water bath. Place on a cooling rack and leave to cool. Refrigerate until cold.
7 To make the meringue, combine half the sugar with water and coffee in a small saucepan over low heat. Cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until the sugar dissolves. Increase heat to medium and bring to the boil. Cook, without stirring, for 6 mins or until syrup thickens. Use an electric mixer to whisk the egg whites in a clean, dry bowl until soft peaks form.
8 Whisk in remaining sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, whisking well after each addition. Continue whisking until sugar dissolves. With the motor running, carefully pour hot syrup into the egg white mixture in a thin, steady stream, whisking constantly, until well combined. Continue whisking for 5 mins or until the mixture cools completely.
9 Place cake on a cake stand. Top with meringue. Use a blow torch to toast. Serve.

Condensed milk rice pudding with cold drip granita

SERVES 6

Prep 30 minutes, plus 1 hour 30 minutes freezing Cooking 30 minutes

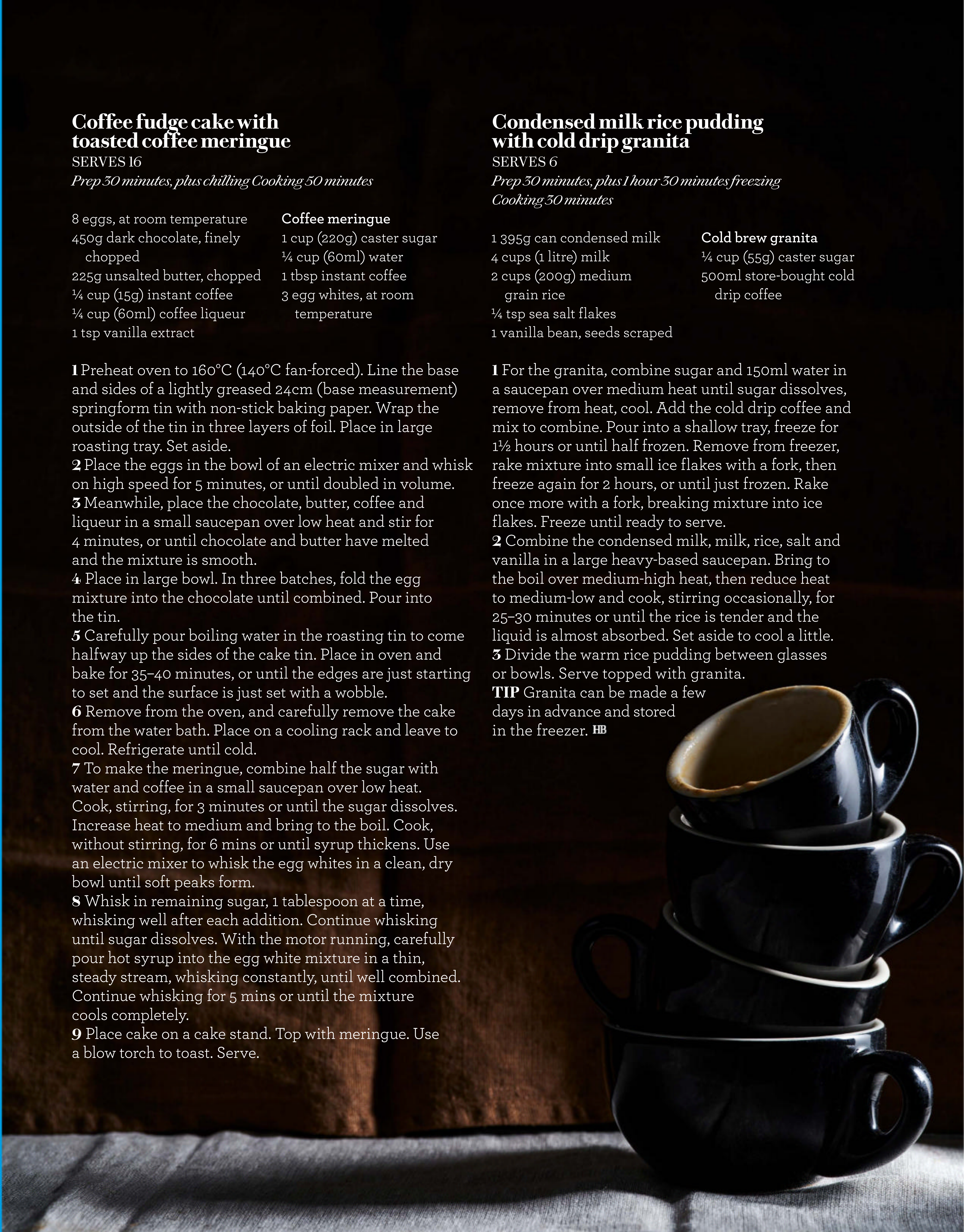
1 395g can condensed milk
4 cups (1 litre) milk
2 cups (200g) medium grain rice
¼ tsp sea salt flakes
1 vanilla bean, seeds scraped

Cold brew granita

¼ cup (55g) caster sugar
500ml store-bought cold drip coffee

1 For the granita, combine sugar and 150ml water in a saucepan over medium heat until sugar dissolves, remove from heat, cool. Add the cold drip coffee and mix to combine. Pour into a shallow tray, freeze for 1½ hours or until half frozen. Remove from freezer, rake mixture into small ice flakes with a fork, then freeze again for 2 hours, or until just frozen. Rake once more with a fork, breaking mixture into ice flakes. Freeze until ready to serve.
2 Combine the condensed milk, milk, rice, salt and vanilla in a large heavy-based saucepan. Bring to the boil over medium-high heat, then reduce heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 25–30 minutes or until the rice is tender and the liquid is almost absorbed. Set aside to cool a little.
3 Divide the warm rice pudding between glasses or bowls. Serve topped with granita.

TIP Granita can be made a few days in advance and stored in the freezer. HB



K&B EDIT

What's new in the world of kitchens and bathrooms

EDITED BY REBECCA HOOTON & KATRINA YAXLEY

TRUE STRIPES

BAINA'S NEW 'WEAVE' COLLECTION IN SAND AND NOIR DRAWS ON THE RHYTHMIC REPETITION OF ART DECO TILING AND MODERNIST TEXTILE ART TO CREATE A REFINED INTERPLAY OF SCALE AND PRINT. CRAFTED IN PORTUGAL FROM GOTS-CERTIFIED ORGANIC COTTON, THE FOUR-PIECE RANGE ELEVATES EVERYDAY RITUALS. HEAD TO SHOPBAINA.COM.

CARRIÈRE FRÈRES INTRODUCES A QUARTET OF ORGANIC SOAPS, EACH WITH A LAYERED SCENT AND MOISTURISING FORMULA. SEE CARRIEREFRERES.COM.AU.

HAIR RAISING

The new Dyson Supersonic R hair dryer, $799, is designed to help you achieve salon style without leaving home. With a powerful, lightweight design, it delivers precision drying for a smoother finish, more shine and no heat damage. Get your hands on this new tool for your vanity at dyson.com.au.

Shelf control

Make the most of your pantry or cupboard with kaboodle's smart storage solutions. From pull-out shelves to a handy lazy Susan, these clever additions help you stay organised while looking stylish. Explore the full range of kaboodle cabinetry and design ideas at Bunnings.

COOL RUNNINGS

Luxury appliance brand Gaggenau has launched The New Generation of Cooling – a fridge-freezer combining architectural precision with advanced climate control, considered storage and a touch display. Explore all the features at gaggenau.com.au.

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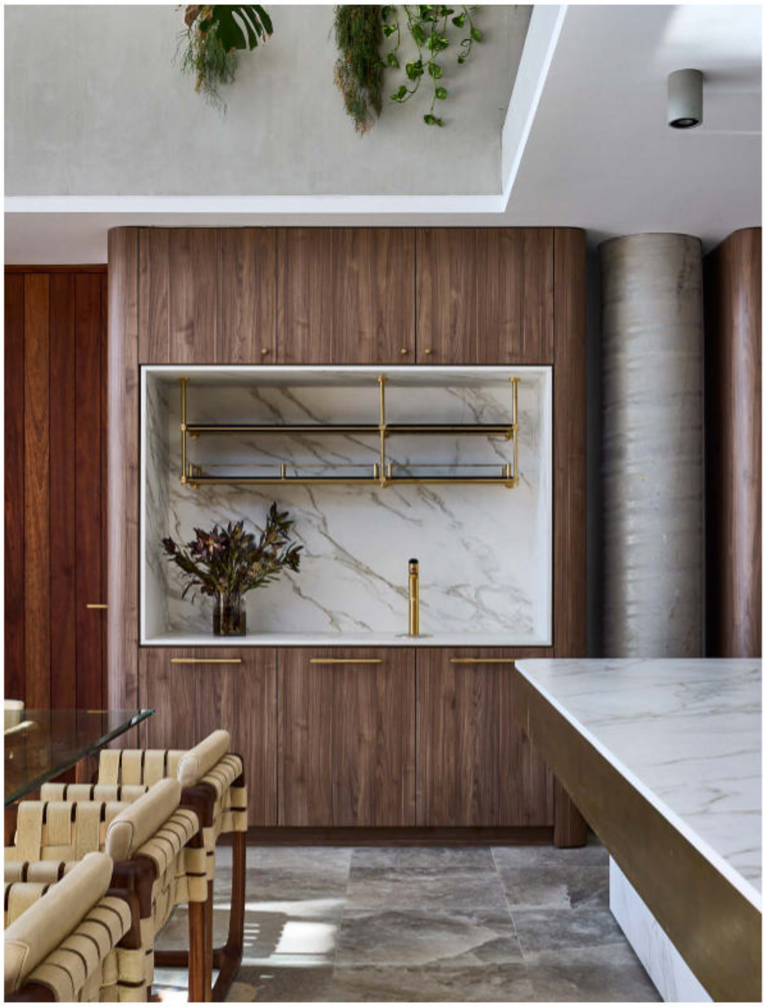
Renowned chef and restaurateur Matt Moran has poured his culinary know-how into My Perfect Stock – a new range designed to add rich, real flavour to home cooking. Available in beef, chicken and vegetable, each one is expertly seasoned. Find them at IGA and Woolworths.

NATURAL SELECTION

IN HIS SUSTAINABLE NEW HOME, LANDSCAPER JAMIE DURIE CHOSE NEOLITH'S ECO-FRIENDLY SURFACES. IN THE KITCHEN (BELOW), ELEGANT 'CALACATTA C01' STEALS THE SHOW ON THE BENCH AND SPLASHBACK. GO TO NEOLITH.COM.



Petal to plate

Le Creuset's 'La Collection Jardin' brings the beauty of a blooming garden to the table, celebrating slow living and life's little joys. Featuring delicate floral patterns inspired by tulips, daffodils and bluebells, the range includes mugs, plates, platters, bowls and egg cups in soft shades of pink, green, blue and yellow. Explore the full collection at lecreuset.com.au.

VINE & DINE

MILLON WINES, CRAFTED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S BAROSSA AND EDEN VALLEYS, HAS RELEASED TWO BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED GIFT BOXES FEATURING THEIR AWARD-WINNING WINES, MODERN STEMLESS GLASSES AND LUXURIOUS PACKAGING. SHOP THEM FOR A SPECIAL EVENT AT MILLONWINES.COM.AU.

PHOTOGRAPHY (MY PERFECT STOCK) **HUGH O'BRIEN** (NEOLITH) **PABLO VEIGA**

BUILDMAT

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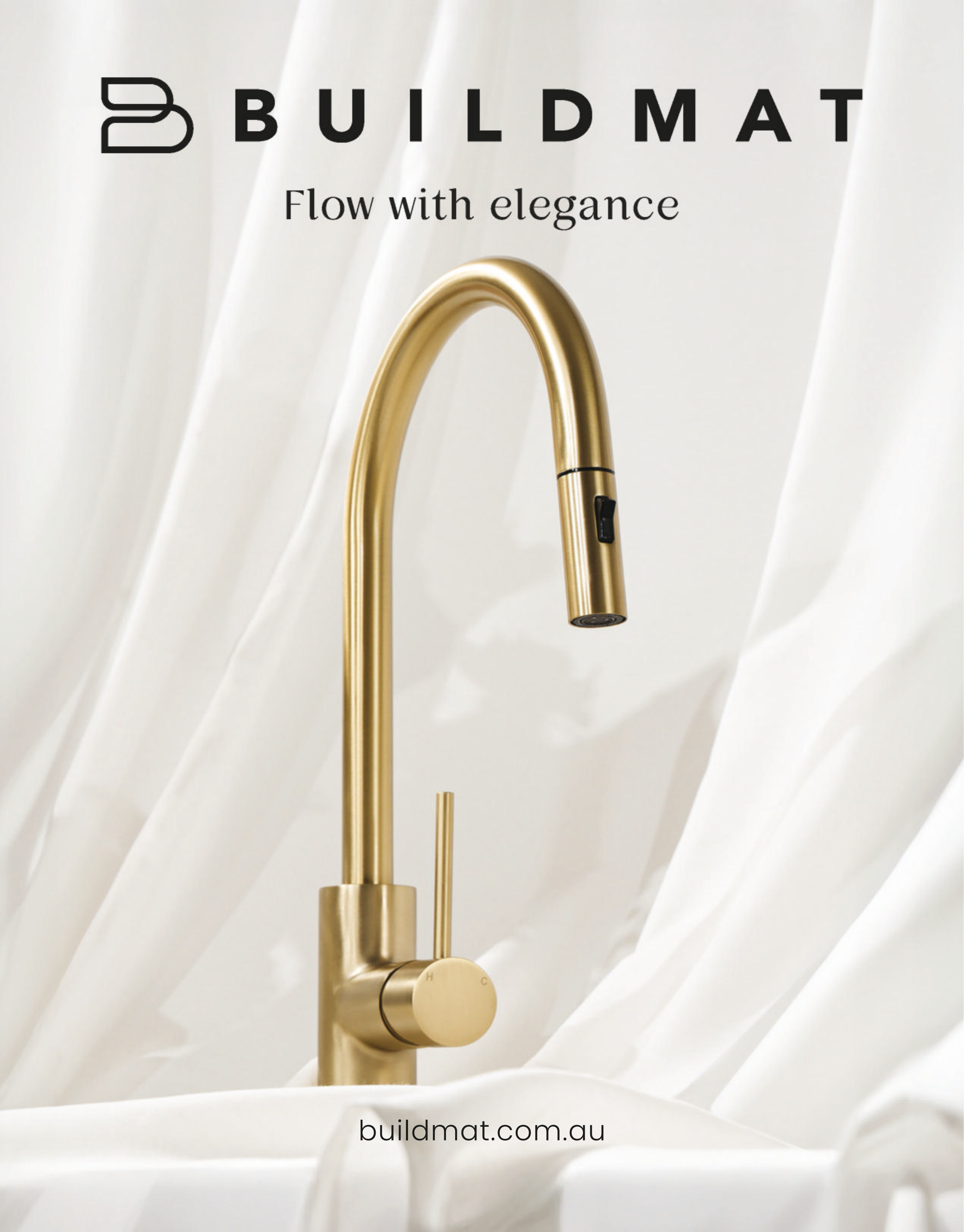

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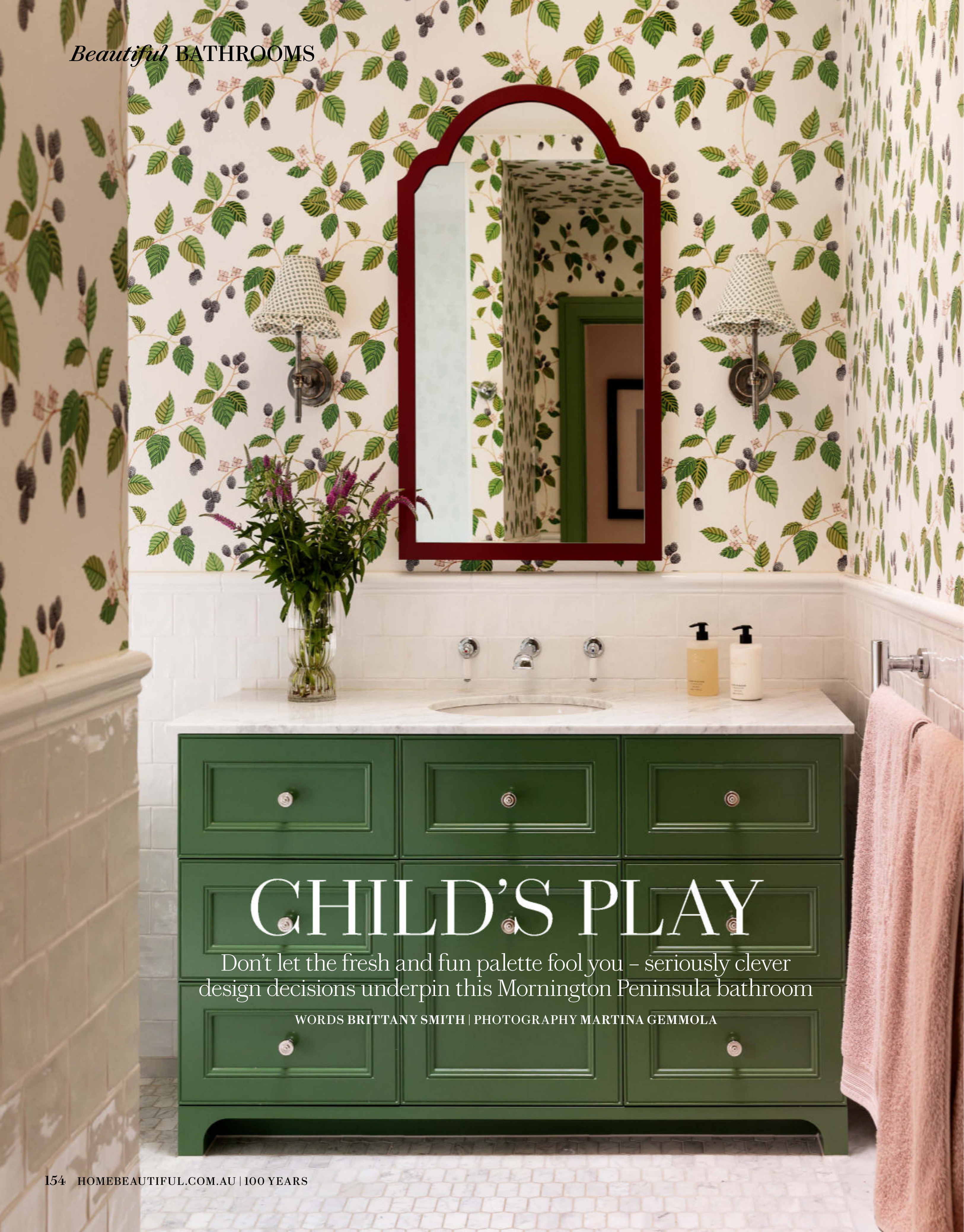
BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

Prepare to be inspired with our selection of impressive bathroom designs. From simple sanctuaries to delightfully decorated, there are 12 bathrooms to spark ideas for your own renovation.

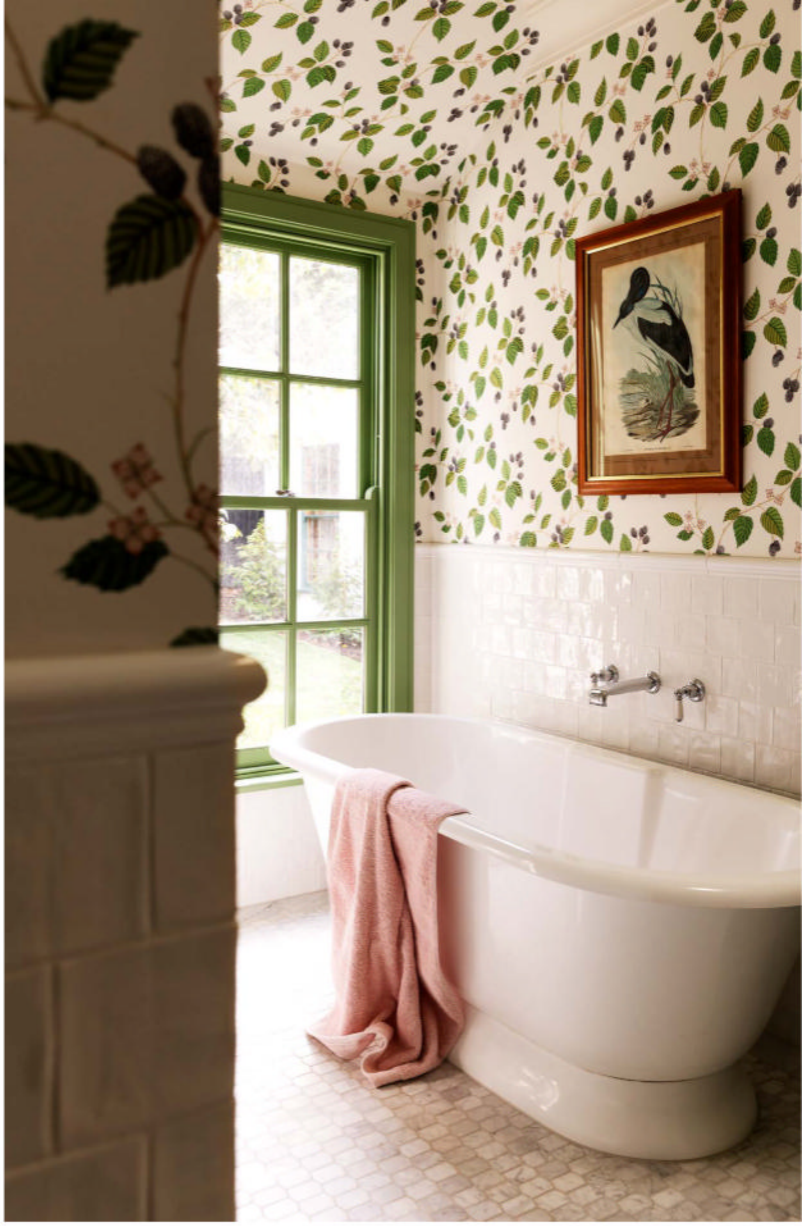
PRODUCED BY **BRITTANY SMITH**



CHILD'S PLAY

Don't let the fresh and fun palette fool you – seriously clever design decisions underpin this Mornington Peninsula bathroom

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MARTINA GEMMOLA**



It's all about efficiency when you have three children, a fact interior designer Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors knows all too well. When the time came to renovate her family home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, she focused on maximising space and functionality, especially in the main bathroom, which her three daughters use.

To improve the layout, Amy removed a sunken bath beside the window and relocated the toilet to a less visible spot. "We installed an overhead shower and additional shower rail, so two little ones could be showered at once," says Amy. A new Victoria + Albert 'York' freestanding bath in Gloss White, from Harvey Norman, lets all three girls enjoy bath time together.

Amy took style cues from "old world English" charm. A vintage artwork is complemented with traditional touches, such as wainscoting-style tiling in 'Masia Blanco' square subways from National Tiles. Sanderson 'Rubus' wallpaper in Blackberry graces the walls above, even reaching across the original roofline near the window. The vibrancy of Taubmans Green Gage ties it together on the window trim and joinery, designed by Maine House Interiors. "The idea was to draw your eye out to the garden beyond," says Amy. The result is at once whimsical and practical. "I love that pop of colour," adds Amy, whose daughters adore the space almost as much as she does.

DESIGNER'S TIP

"Use the best *materials that you can afford," advises Amy, who opted for classic Bianco Carrara marble from Gladstones Granite & Marble to top the vanity, and selected Carrara 'Shields' mosaic tiles from National Tiles for the flooring. Amy recommends ensuring the storage in your bathroom is beautiful as well as functional. She did this here with her own bespoke mirror design, which conceals face-level storage and is finished in Porter's Paints Dragon's Eye.*

IN THE DETAILS

Here, Amy layered *ambient and task lighting. "We have three pin lights over the mirror plus downlights over the toilet and shower for function," she says. Maine House Interiors customised lamp shades in Chelsea Textiles 'Fern' fabric in Leaf for the Florabelle Living 'Dino' wall lights in Antique Brass. The finish complements the Perrin & Rowe wall-mounted basin and bath tapware sets in Chrome with white porcelain levers, sourced from The English Tapware Company.*

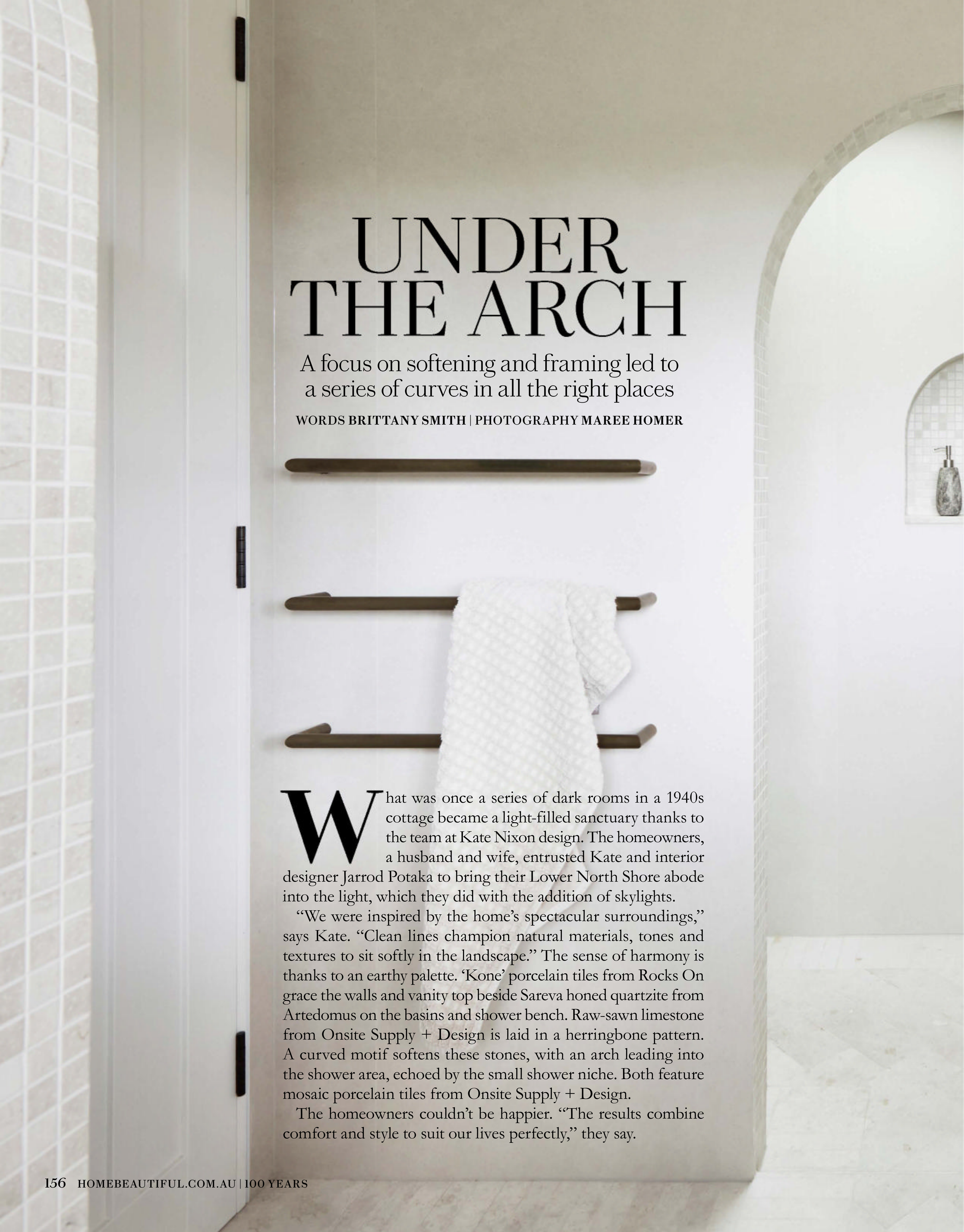
SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Maine House Interiors, mainehouseinteriors.com.*
Joinery *Elite Design Joinery, elitedesignjoinery.com.au.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Sanderson 'Rubus'* ***wallpaper*** *in Blackberry, $270/10m roll, The Fabric Editors. Carrara 'Shields'* ***mosaic tiles*** *(30.2cm x 30cm), $34.95 each, National Tiles. Taubmans Endure Interior Wall* ***paint*** *in Green Gage, $104.60/4L. Perrin & Rowe* ***basin mixer*** *with low spout and porcelain lever taps in Chrome, $745, The English Tapware Company.*

ARTWORK **ARTIST UNKNOWN** ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



UNDER THE ARCH

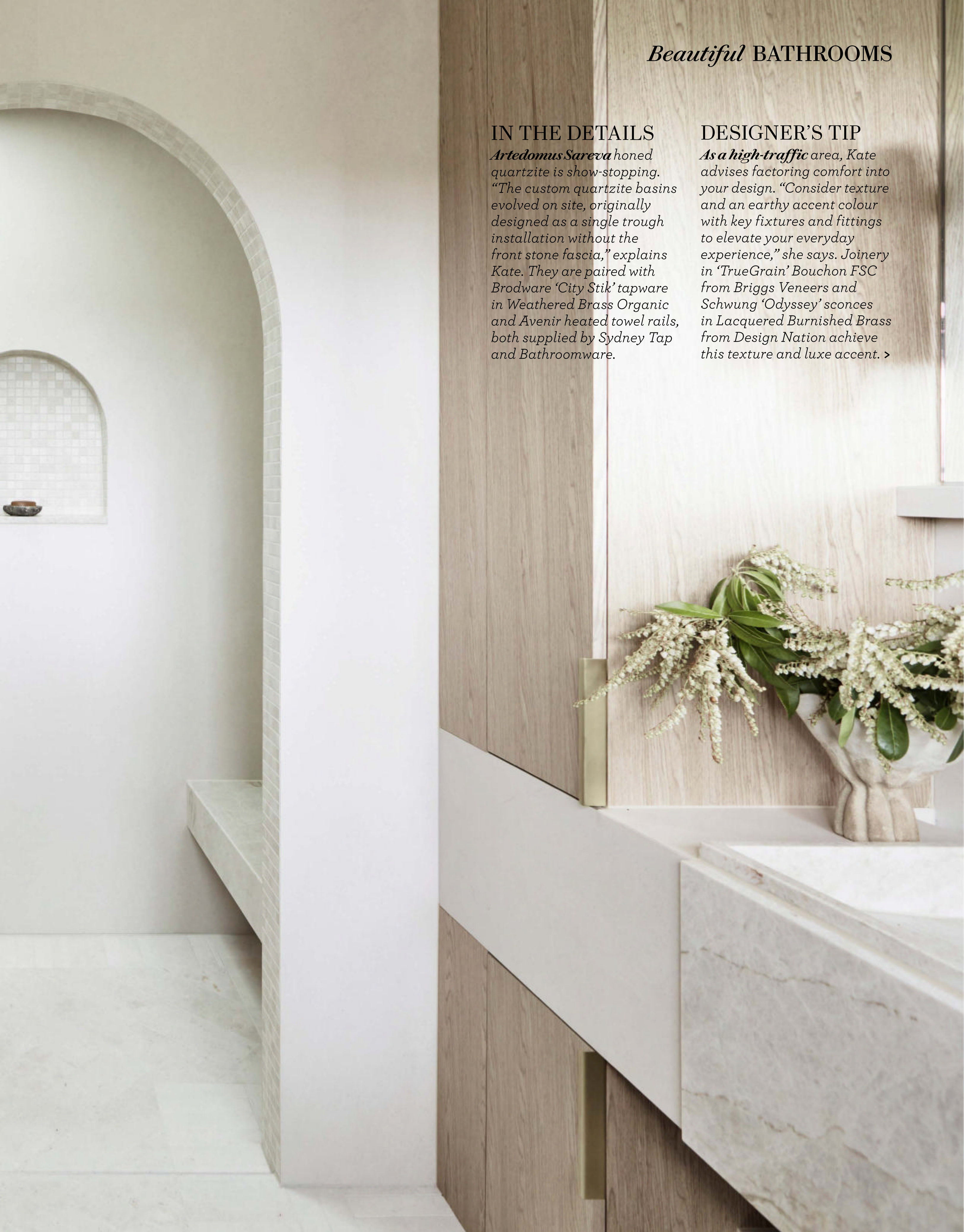
A focus on softening and framing led to a series of curves in all the right places

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MAREE HOMER**

What was once a series of dark rooms in a 1940s cottage became a light-filled sanctuary thanks to the team at Kate Nixon design. The homeowners, a husband and wife, entrusted Kate and interior designer Jarrod Potaka to bring their Lower North Shore abode into the light, which they did with the addition of skylights.

"We were inspired by the home's spectacular surroundings," says Kate. "Clean lines champion natural materials, tones and textures to sit softly in the landscape." The sense of harmony is thanks to an earthy palette. 'Kone' porcelain tiles from Rocks On grace the walls and vanity top beside Sareva honed quartzite from Artedomus on the basins and shower bench. Raw-sawn limestone from Onsite Supply + Design is laid in a herringbone pattern. A curved motif softens these stones, with an arch leading into the shower area, echoed by the small shower niche. Both feature mosaic porcelain tiles from Onsite Supply + Design.

The homeowners couldn't be happier. "The results combine comfort and style to suit our lives perfectly," they say.

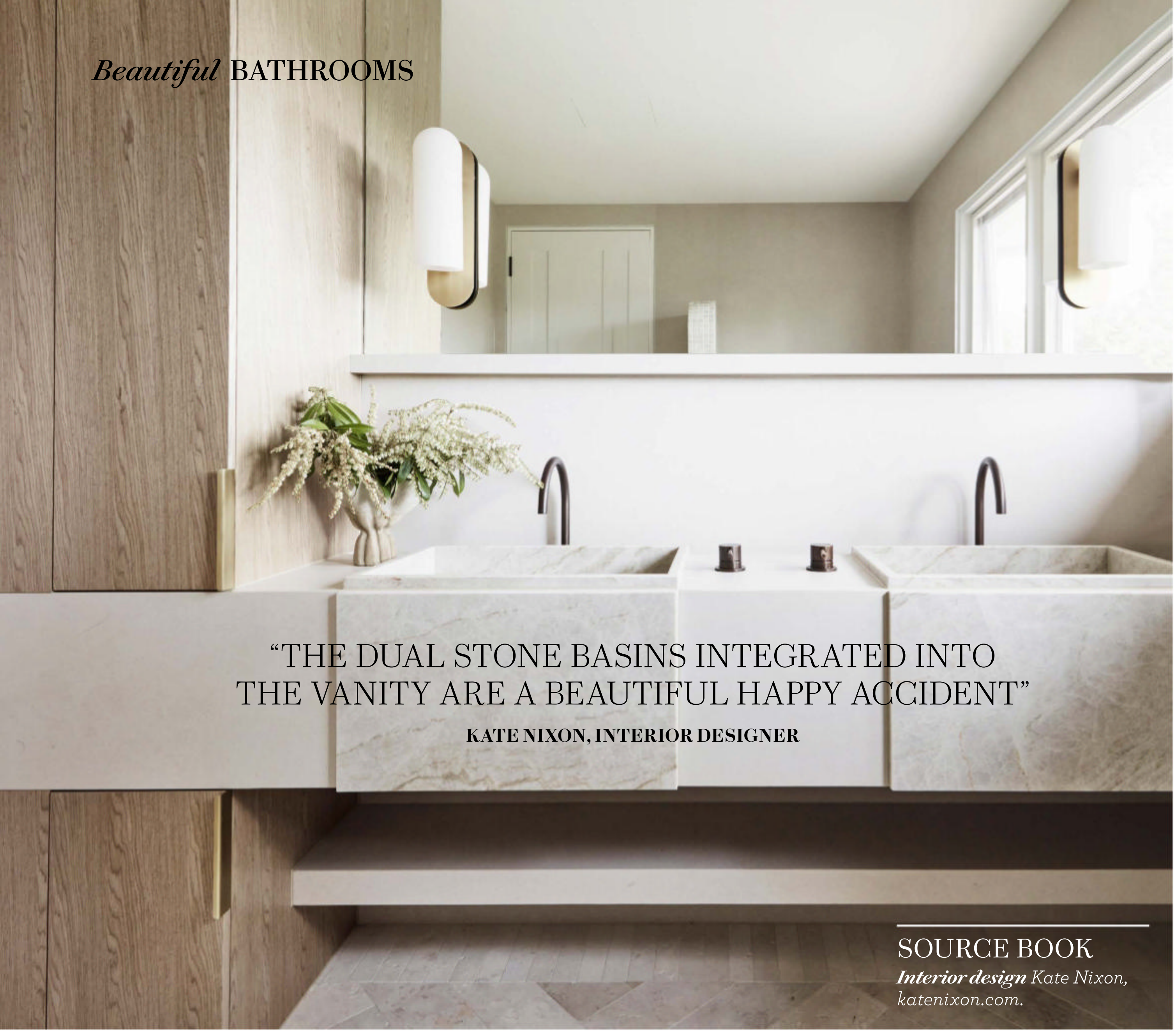


IN THE DETAILS

Artedomus Sareva *honed quartzite is show-stopping. "The custom quartzite basins evolved on site, originally designed as a single trough installation without the front stone fascia," explains Kate. They are paired with Brodware 'City Stik' tapware in Weathered Brass Organic and Avenir heated towel rails, both supplied by Sydney Tap and Bathroomware.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

As a high-traffic *area, Kate advises factoring comfort into your design. "Consider texture and an earthy accent colour with key fixtures and fittings to elevate your everyday experience," she says. Joinery in 'TrueGrain' Bouchon FSC from Briggs Veneers and Schwung 'Odyssey' sconces in Lacquered Burnished Brass from Design Nation achieve this texture and luxe accent.* >



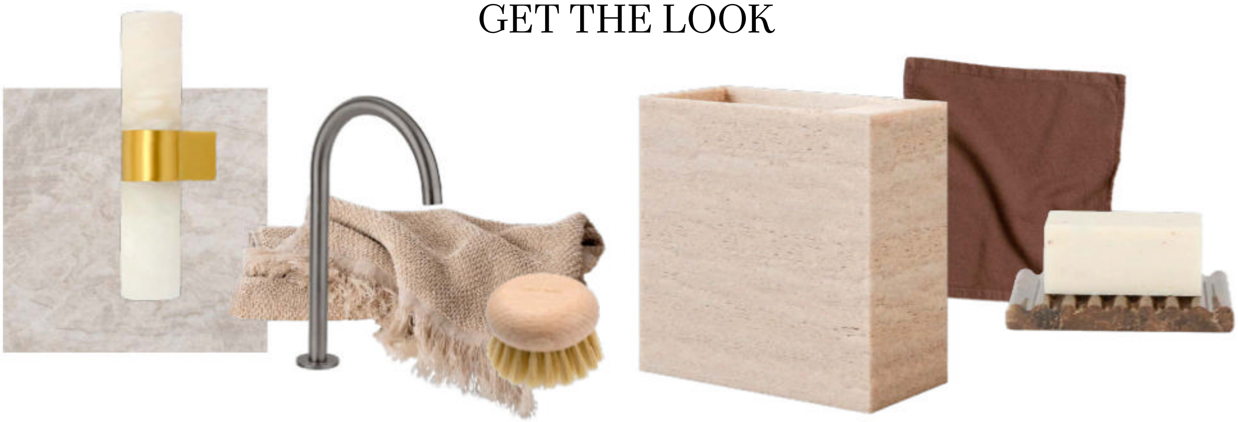
"THE DUAL STONE BASINS INTEGRATED INTO THE VANITY ARE A BEAUTIFUL HAPPY ACCIDENT"

KATE NIXON, INTERIOR DESIGNER

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Kate Nixon, katenixon.com.*

GET THE LOOK



From left *Sareva honed* ***quartzite****, from $863.50/sqm, Artedomus. Made by Mayfair 'Luella'* ***wall light****, $549, Beacon Lighting.* ***Bath towel****, $150, Cultiver. 'Milani'* ***mixer set*** *in Brushed Gunmetal, $454.80, ABI Interiors. Andrée Jardin Beechwood* ***body brush****, $38, Malmaison. 'Benito'* ***basin*** *in Italian Travertine, $5800, Bova. Vintage* ***face cloth****, $15, Saardé. 'Binu Binu'* ***soap dish****, $139, Lee Mathews.*

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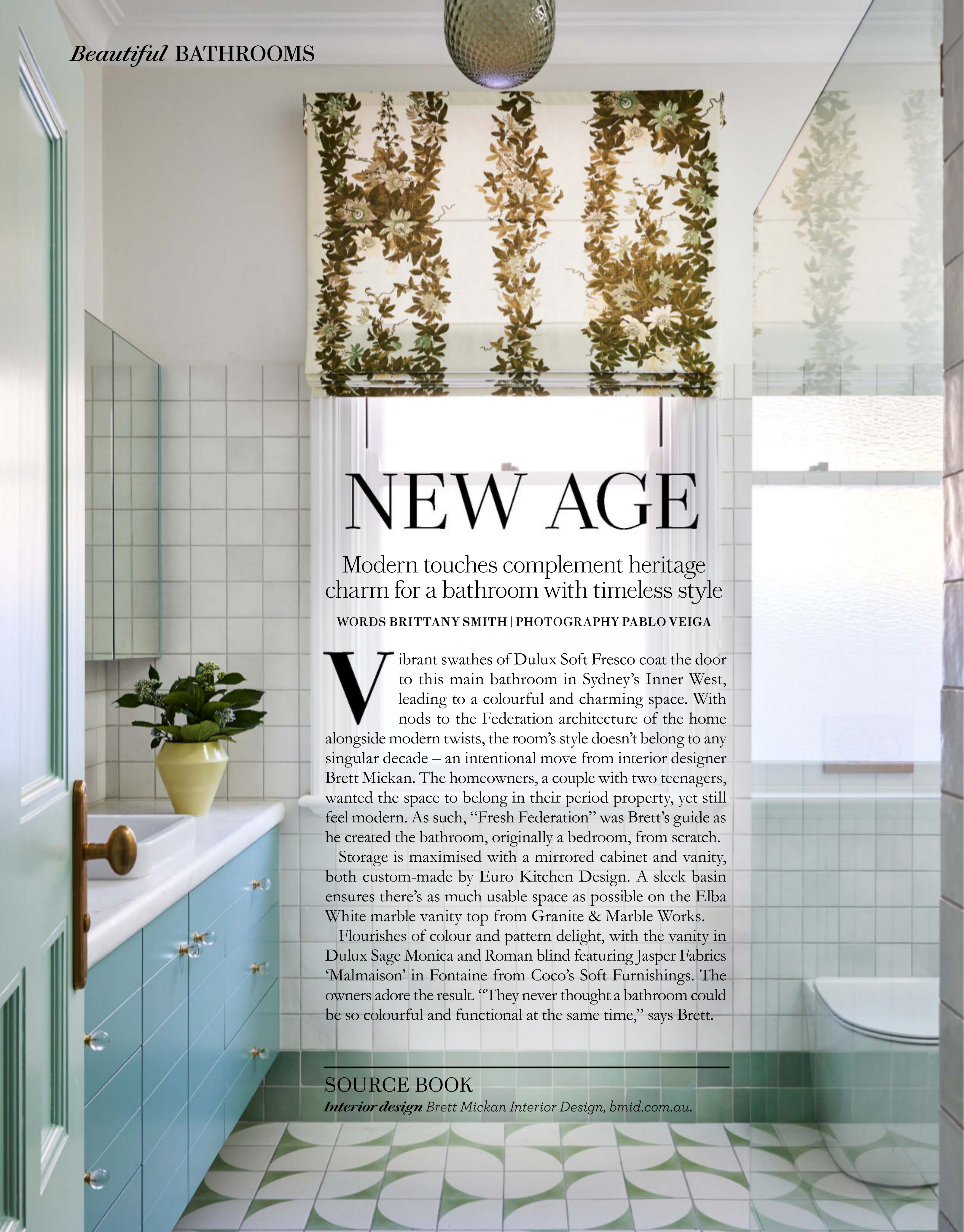


NEW AGE

Modern touches complement heritage charm for a bathroom with timeless style

WORDS BRITTANY SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY PABLO VEIGA

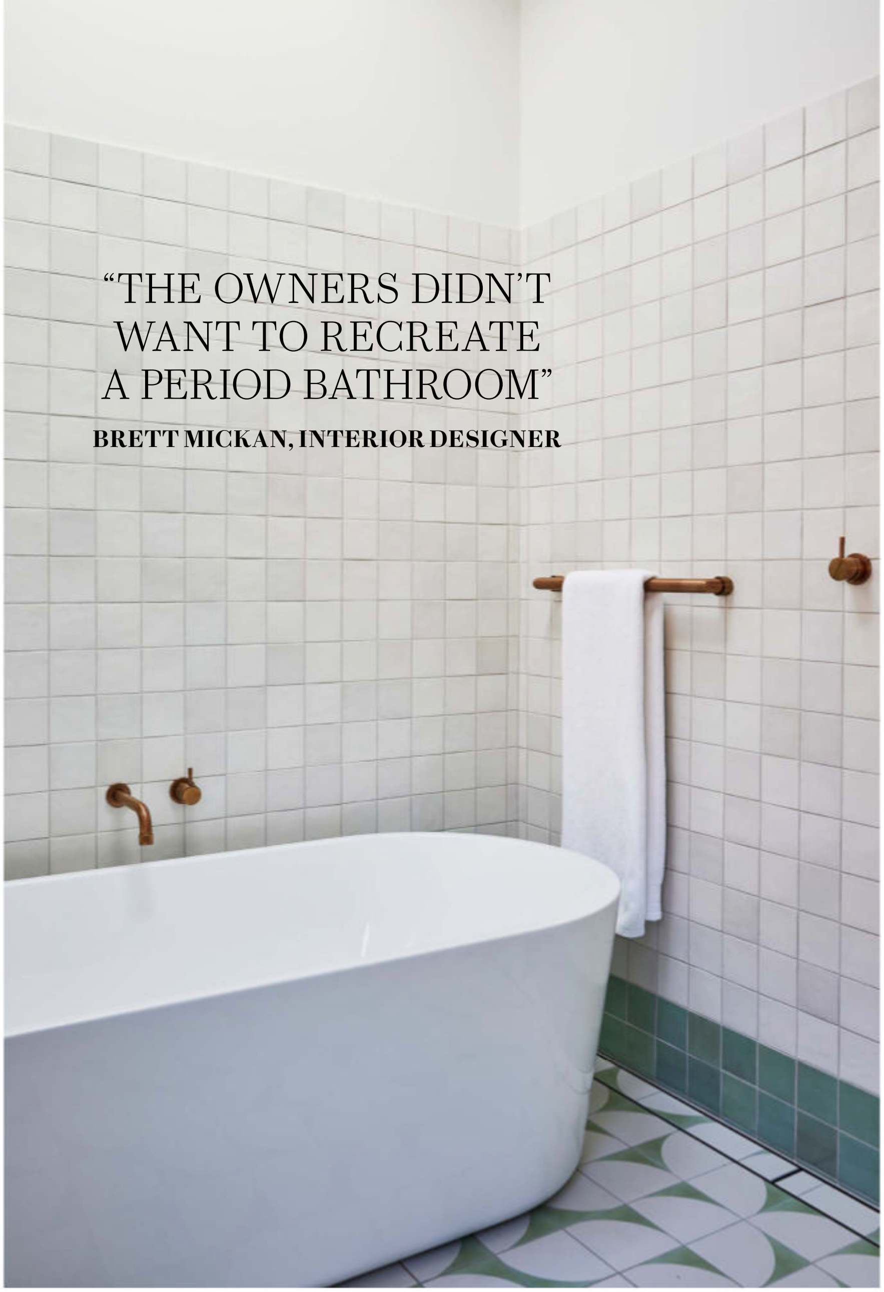
Vibrant swathes of Dulux Soft Fresco coat the door to this main bathroom in Sydney's Inner West, leading to a colourful and charming space. With nods to the Federation architecture of the home alongside modern twists, the room's style doesn't belong to any singular decade – an intentional move from interior designer Brett Mickan. The homeowners, a couple with two teenagers, wanted the space to belong in their period property, yet still feel modern. As such, "Fresh Federation" was Brett's guide as he created the bathroom, originally a bedroom, from scratch.

Storage is maximised with a mirrored cabinet and vanity, both custom-made by Euro Kitchen Design. A sleek basin ensures there's as much usable space as possible on the Elba White marble vanity top from Granite & Marble Works.

Flourishes of colour and pattern delight, with the vanity in Dulux Sage Monica and Roman blind featuring Jasper Fabrics 'Malmaison' in Fontaine from Coco's Soft Furnishings. The owners adore the result. "They never thought a bathroom could be so colourful and functional at the same time," says Brett.

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Brett Mickan Interior Design, bmid.com.au.*



> "THE OWNERS DIDN'T WANT TO RECREATE A PERIOD BATHROOM"
>
> **BRETT MICKAN, INTERIOR DESIGNER**

STYLE NOTES

Square tiles *from The Art of Tiles decorate the bathroom, with two thirds of the wall height clad with 'Polo' tiles in Gesso. Below this, a border of 'Polo' tiles in Turchese creates a skirting board-effect that bridges the walls and 'Pattern Ischia' floor tiles, which Brett explains are reminiscent of Federation-style tessellated tiles. The uppermost third of the walls, including the room's cornices and ceiling, is painted in fresh Dulux Lexicon Half.*

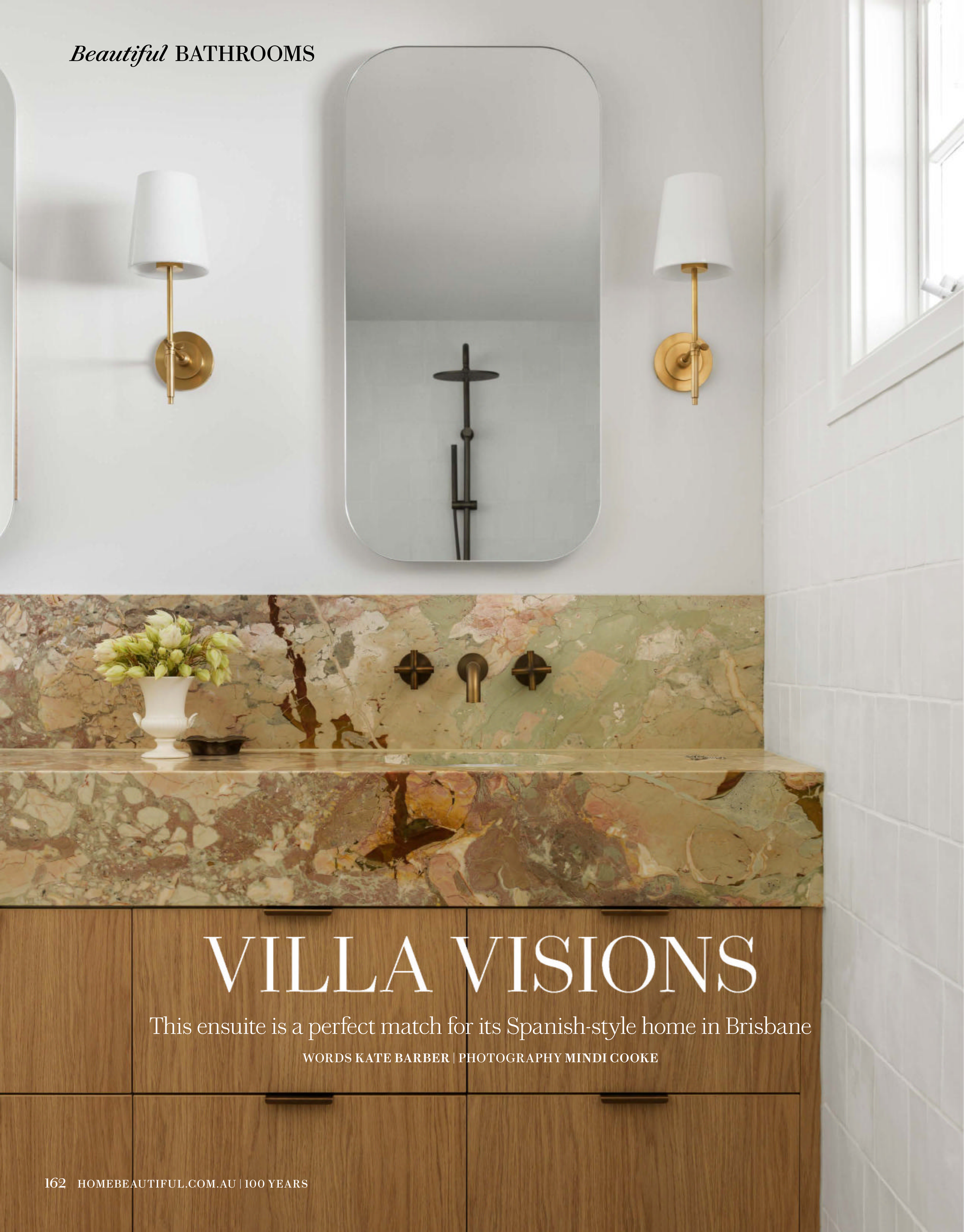
IN THE DETAILS

The open wet-room *layout meets the brief for a separate shower and freestanding bath. The Caroma 'Urbane II' tub has a modern, oval shape that complements the Brodware 'Yokato' tapware and heated towel rail in Roma Bronze. Over time, the natural patina of the finish will create a sense of maturity well-suited to the 1900s home. On the joinery, 'Sovereign' knobs in Polished Gold and Crystal from Castella complete the heritage look.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Jasper Fabrics 'Malmaison'* ***fabric*** *in Fontaine, from $750/m, Elliott Clarke. 'Urbane II' back-to-corner 1700mm* ***bath,*** *$3099, Caroma. Brodware 'Yokato'* ***wall basin set*** *with 160mm spout in Roma Bronze, $1455, Sydney Tap & Bathroomware. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Sage Monica, $104.11/4L. Santa Maria Novella 'Gelsomino'* ***EDP,*** *$425/100ml, Myer.*

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



VILLA VISIONS

This ensuite is a perfect match for its Spanish-style home in Brisbane

WORDS **KATE BARBER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **MINDI COOKE**

Originally a very bare bathroom, with white floor and wall tiles, this ensuite now exudes warmth and has the style of a European villa. To achieve this result the homeowners, Linda and Michael – a married couple who live in this Brisbane home with their Miniature Schnauzer, Boots – turned to Jane Holmes, director of Hark Interiors. "They wanted a clean, fresh and elevated aesthetic that also respected the slightly Spanish exterior, while being able to work with some of their existing, more modern pieces," says Jane. "Maximising storage was also a key goal."

Jane sourced the show-stopping Sicilian Ceppo honed marble from Finestone Granite & Marble for the vanity top. "We designed the vanity with a deep apron to truly highlight the stone," says Jane. The warm tones continue in the antique brass tapware, 'Ferrara' lip pulls from Touch Handles and the 'Ballina' floor tiles in Bone Matt from Stone 3.

For more storage, wall-to-wall deep drawers made of Polytec 'Woodmatt' in Boston Oak were installed along with ADP 'Stadium' mirrored cabinets from Reece. The clients couldn't be happier with their new space. "We love the mirrored cabinets with power and so many deep drawers," says Linda. "The finishes are divine but it's the functionality for the win."

IN THE DETAILS

"A new, more polished *sconce selection created the elevated look the client was after," explains Jane, referring to the Visual Comfort 'Bryant' glass wall sconces from Bloomingdales Lighting. "Always add sconces either side of your vanity mirror. Opaque glass is a favourite for a soft glow to illuminate your face," says Jane. The white palette is a foil for the stone, with handmade-style Spanish wall tiles in Matt White sourced from Stone 3.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

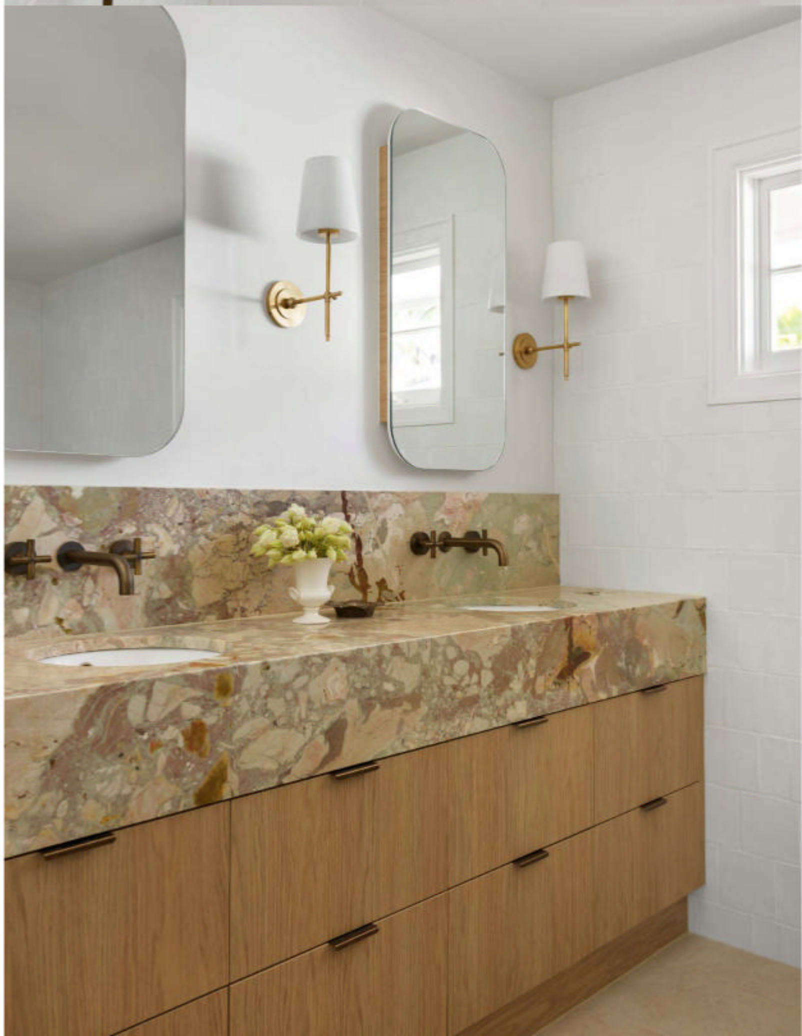
"Design for you *and not the future owner of the home," advises Jane. "If you don't require a bath, don't bother squeezing one in for the sake of it. If you want colour that might be more polarising, go for it!" In this bathroom, the owners have used a large piece of stone to make a bold statement on the vanity top. This is then carried to other zones, such as the shower, for cohesion. "The little marble detail in the shower niche is a sweet addition," says Jane.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Hark Interiors, harkinteriors.com.* ***Builder*** *Armours Renovations, armours.com.au.* ***Joinery*** *Your Design Kitchens and Bathrooms, yourdesignkitchens.com.au.*

"THE MARBLE WAS THE HERO OF THIS SPACE"

JANE HOLMES, INTERIOR DESIGNER



ALL IN ONE

Two small bathrooms merged together to form one bespoke and practical space

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **PABLO VEIGA**

Bold swathes of marble and brass accents create a luxe palette in this bathroom, but the stunning scheme is a world away from its pre-renovation state. Situated in a terrace house in Sydney where a couple live with their young child, the space was formerly occupied by a separate toilet and bath, which resulted in two small spaces lacking function. That's where Kate Bath, interior designer at Blue Tea Kitchens and Bathrooms, stepped in.

Spatial planning was key. Kate increased the footprint by demolishing the wall, moving the doorway and adding a sliding pocket door. A nib wall hides the toilet, while another delineates the shower. "I used wall tiles sparingly, to make the room feel larger, and emphasised the height by taking them to the ceiling in the shower," explains Kate. This was achieved with Di Lorenzo 'Zelij Chalk Gloss' tiles in White.

Kate ensured the brass trim of the mirror – a custom creation by the joiners – complemented the Rumbled Brass of the Brodware 'Manhattan' wall taps and 'Winslow' shower rose. A Zest Lighting 'Ribbed Gold Clear Acrylic' sconce salutes the scheme. Now, the homeowners couldn't be happier. A spacious shower, a bath to soak in and a clever layout to pull it all together proves that sometimes one bathroom is better than two.

IN THE DETAILS

***The mirror conceals** storage in the form of a recessed cabinet, which was made possible when Kate increased the wall depth. Aligned with the mirror beside it, the linen cupboard is a sleek addition, thanks to its Dulux Lexicon Quarter polyurethane finish – the same shade as the walls. Beading detail on the cabinetry profiles and Noble Elements 'Riverstone' knobs in Bronze beautify this feature.*

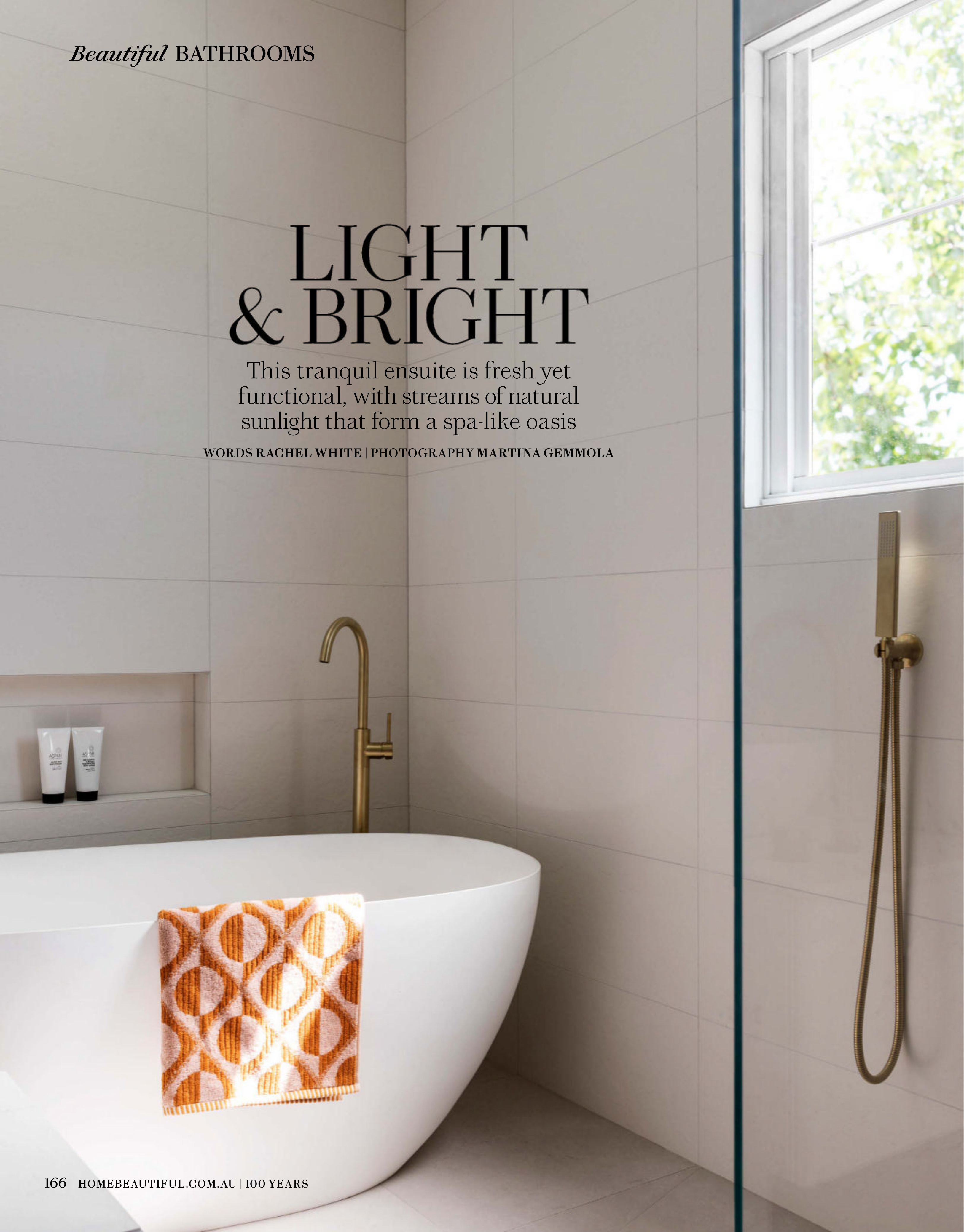
STYLE NOTES

***"The aesthetic was** classic and minimalistic," shares Kate. The bespoke vanity has a benchtop of Calacatta Viola marble from Styled In Stone, which cascades over the edge to meet the Elton Group 'Evenex Sincro' timber-look joinery in Tuscan Oak. Floor tiles are 'Unique Travertine' in Silver Minimal Naturale from Di Lorenzo Tiles. X-Bond Microcement from Alternative Surfaces forms the splashback.*

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

SOURCE BOOK

***Interior design** Blue Tea Kitchens and Bathrooms, bluetea.com.au.*



LIGHT & BRIGHT

This tranquil ensuite is fresh yet functional, with streams of natural sunlight that form a spa-like oasis

WORDS RACHEL WHITE | PHOTOGRAPHY MARTINA GEMMOLA

Transforming an outdated ensuite into a modern, light-filled retreat was the aim for this lavish makeover in Melbourne's Bayside area. Part of a larger renovation, the owners wanted to enhance their home's Edwardian features, while injecting a dash of contemporary indulgence, especially in the ensuite. "They dreamt of creating an oasis with ample natural light, soft textures and luxurious finishes," says designer Georgette Criticos of GIA Renovations, who reimagined the space.

The original ensuite was functional, but out of sync with the homeowners' vision for their space. "It was all cream and brown tones, a very '90s-style renovation," says Georgette. "They wanted to move away from a stock standard style of bathroom and make it something special."

Georgette first focused on optimising the layout, prioritising natural light and free-flowing movement. She shifted the double vanity towards the entrance and grouped the bath and shower together on the far wall to create a wet zone. Taking advantage of the high ceilings, she specified a rain shower and floor-to-ceiling glass shower screen for a streamlined finish.

The timber window was replaced with a white aluminium-framed design to withstand moisture, and a skylight was installed directly above the angled bath, ushering in light and vignettes that the homeowners can now enjoy while soaking in the tub. "The skylight creates beautiful, ever-changing reflections on each surface," says Georgette.

Turning her attention to the colour palette, she pursued an airy, spa-like aesthetic with her careful material selections. These finishing flourishes include matching tapware in brushed brass for warmth, a soft terrazzo vanity top for tonal depth and V-groove cabinetry for tactile interest.

IN THE DETAILS

Achieving a *cohesive design and ambience can often be as simple as selecting fixtures and fittings from the same range, and that's exactly what Georgette did when designing this ensuite. The curvaceous basins and bath are from the Kado 'Lussi' collection at Reece, while the tapware and hardware from ABI Interiors share a Brushed Brass finish.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

"The tiles were *an important choice, as they formed the base of the palette," shares Georgette. Honed 'Empire' tiles in White were laid on the floor, with matte 'Pottery Field' tiles in Pearl on the walls, both from Southern Tile. "They are a neutral, creamy white tone, giving the walls a textural element," says Georgette of the large-format design.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design & builder *GIA Renovations, giarenovations.com.au.*

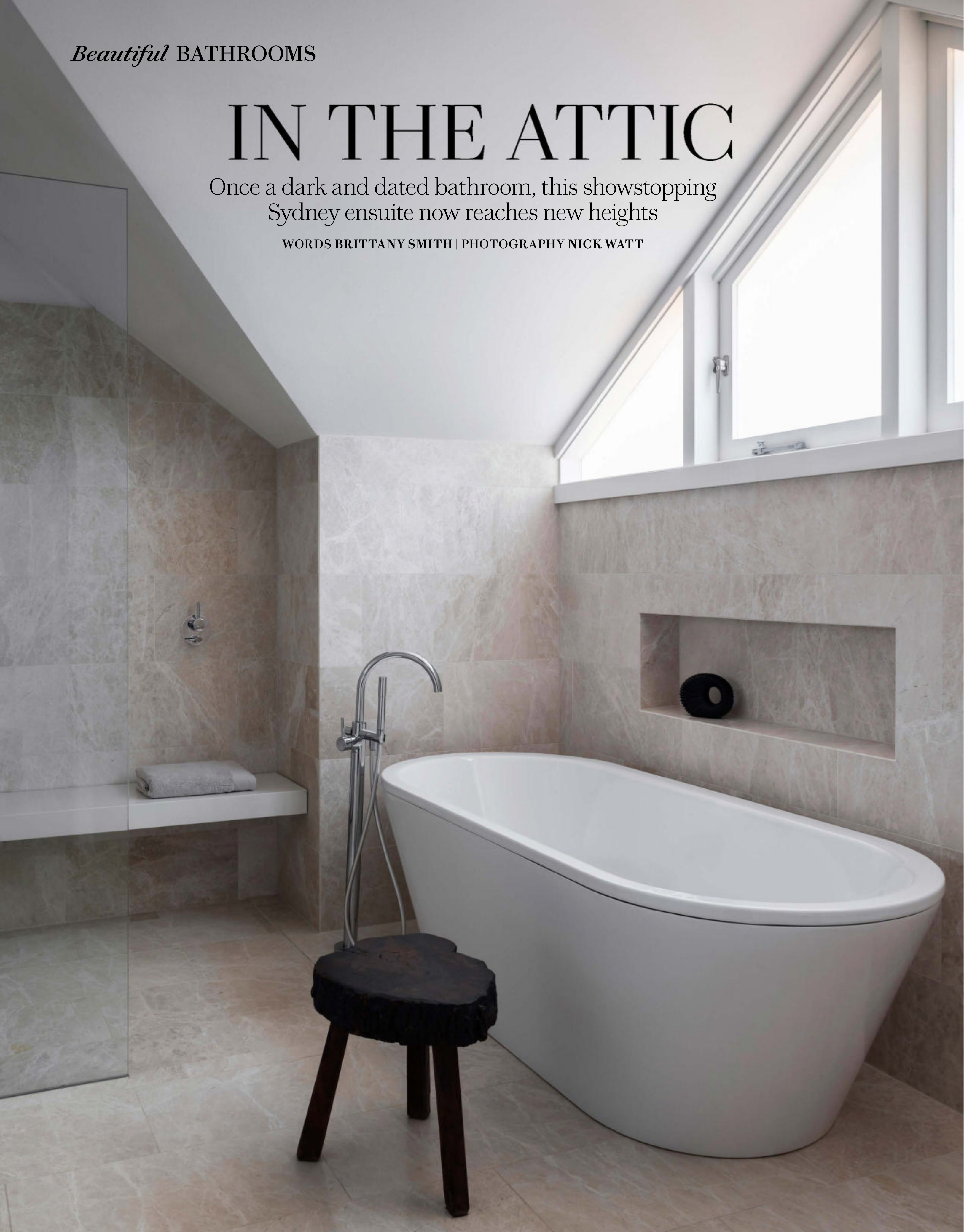
GET THE LOOK

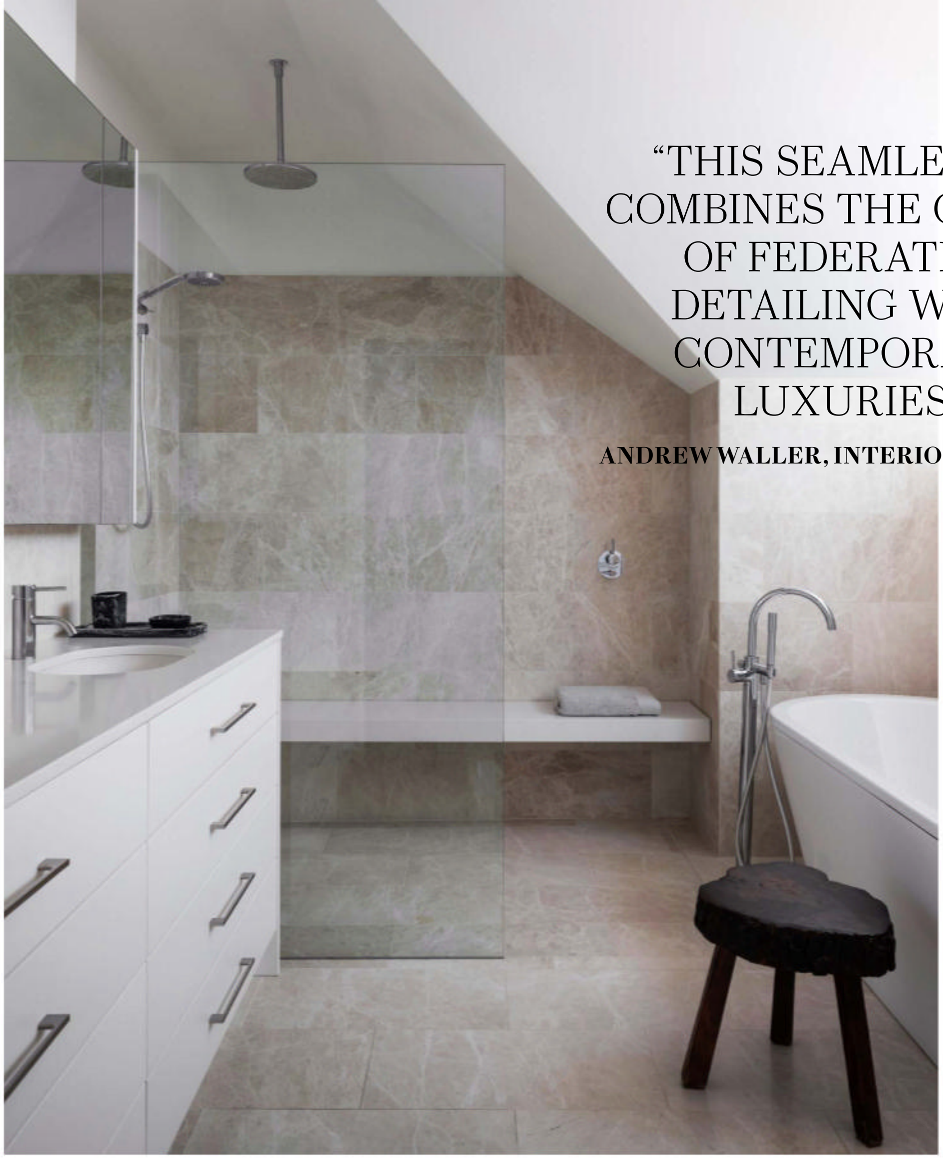
From left *'Milani' swivel* ***hob mixer set*** *in Brushed Brass, $454.80, ABI Interiors. Issy 'Cloud' 600mm floor-mounted* ***vanity,*** *from $4410, Reece. 'Raye'* ***facecloth*** *in Terracotta, $15, L&M Home. Kado 'Lussi' above-counter* ***basin,*** *$550, Reece. 'Drama'* ***sconce*** *in Brass and White Glass, $169, Zest Lighting.*

IN THE ATTIC

Once a dark and dated bathroom, this showstopping Sydney ensuite now reaches new heights

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NICK WATT**





> “THIS SEAMLESSLY COMBINES THE CHARM OF FEDERATION DETAILING WITH CONTEMPORARY LUXURIES”
>
> **ANDREW WALLER, INTERIOR DESIGNER**

It had been 25 years since this Federation home on Sydney’s Lower North Shore was last renovated. In that time, the owners became empty nesters, with adult children, grandchildren and elderly parents to host. Their main suite, including this ensuite, was small and constrained. Situated in the attic, low, angled roof lines dictated the placement of fixtures and natural light came from one skylight.

“The brief was to create a luxurious, spa-inspired bathroom that maximises space, enhances natural light, and blends modern elegance with functionality,” says Andrew Waller, founder of interior design practice Mr Waller. “To transform the space, a new dormer roofline with a triangular window was introduced, expanding the room’s size and increasing the usable height”, all while allowing more natural light.

Light tones draw the eye upwards, aiding the feeling of spaciousness, with a Thassos White marble benchtop and Vanilla Cream honed marble tiles, both from RMS Marble. The latter flow seamlessly from the floor towards the ceiling, which is finished in Dulux Whisper White. Serene and refined, this ensuite is now far from the storybook image that is conjured when you think of an attic. Instead, it’s a retreat that the owners find “sophisticated and soothing.”

STYLE NOTES

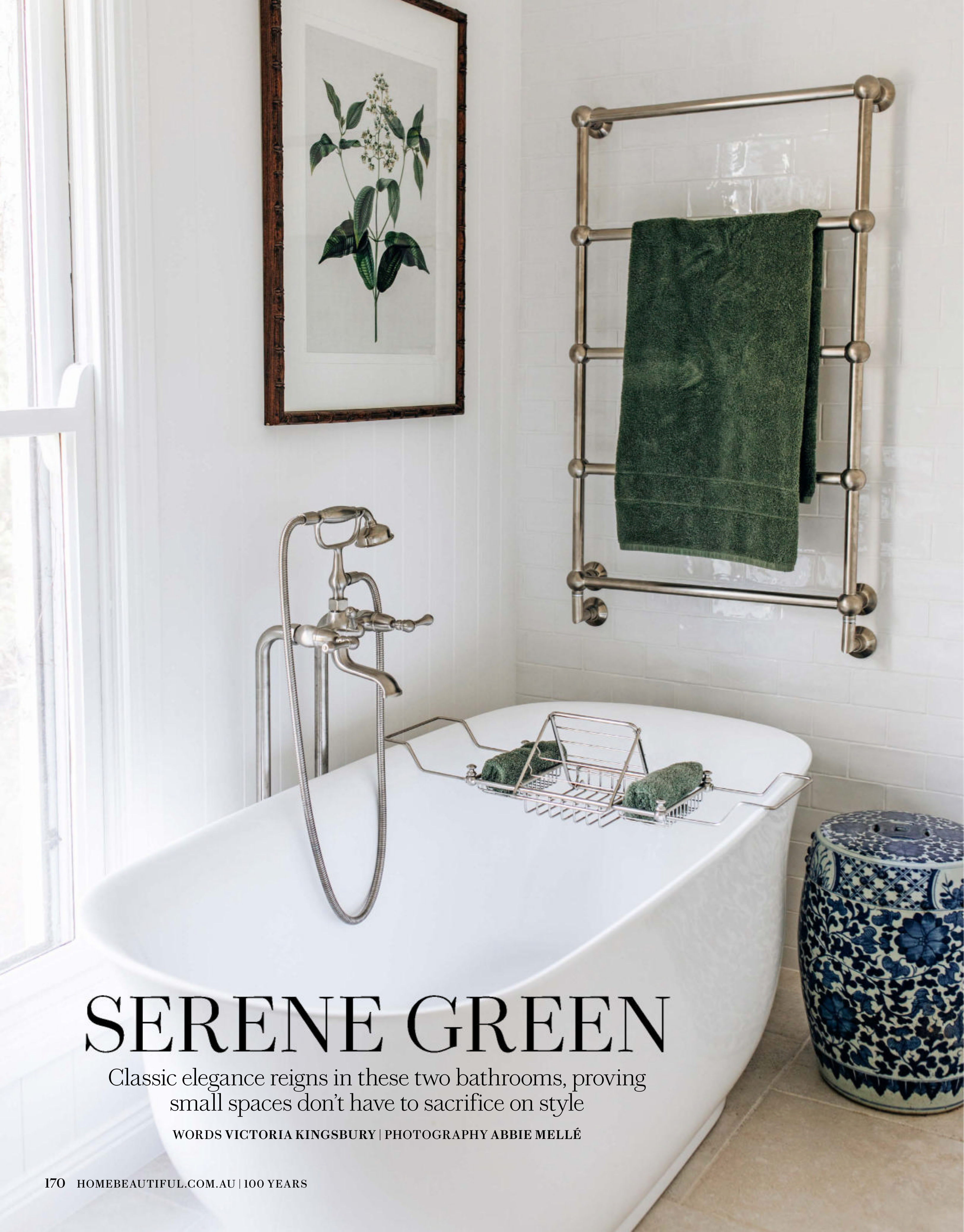
Sunlight streams *through the dormer window, supplied by Windoor Joinery, reflecting off white fixtures, including the Kaldewei ‘Classic Duo’ oval freestanding bath, ‘Subway’ wall hung toilet and ‘O.Novo basin’, both from Villeroy & Boch. The burnt timber of the ‘Brutalist Tri-Leg’ stool from The Vault creates a point of contrast. Chrome is king, with Iver ‘Cali’ pull handles from Keeler Hardware, Brodware ‘City Stik’ tapware and showerhead plus Hydrotherm heated towel rails all in Chrome finishes.*

DESIGNER’S TIP

“Select materials *that not only stand the test of time but also tell a story,” suggests Andrew. “The Vanilla Cream stone brings a touch of luxury that only grows more beautiful with age, acquiring a distinguished patina over time that adds depth and character to the space.” These honed marble tiles were used to create functional built-in features, such as a bathtub niche, and a shower bench. Andrew says, “this thoughtful design blends practicality with beauty, resulting in a tranquil, spa-inspired atmosphere.”*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Mr Waller, mrwaller.com.*
Builder *Steve Rayner, Sydney Adaptions, 0408 219 510.*



SERENE GREEN

Classic elegance reigns in these two bathrooms, proving small spaces don't have to sacrifice on style

WORDS VICTORIA KINGSBURY | PHOTOGRAPHY ABBIE MELLÉ

The bathrooms in this 1940s, Georgian-inspired Burradoo cottage in NSW Southern Highlands, are decorated with the same palette of fresh neutrals and greens that have been carried throughout the rest of the home. "It was the perfect palette to bring the outside in," says homeowner and interior designer Georgia Boyd of The Classic Outfitter interior design studio. In the main bathroom (opposite & this page, top) a Studio 1 'Hampton' 1500mm freestanding bath was the perfect size to fit in the small space. Georgia gave the bathrooms a country feel with VJ panelling and 'Paris' vanities from Royal Vanities, with a Carrara marble top. A traditional touch has been added with Astra Walker Olde English tapware in a Brushed Platinum finish. Above the bath hangs a luxurious Hydrotherm 'B Series' heated towel rail so towels are nice and toasty after a soak in the tub. Classic Jerusalem stone tiles in a French lay pattern ground the space and add a warm tone, which contrasts the gloss white Majorca subway tiles for the shower and wet area walls. In both spaces, the custom mirrors are from The Classic Outfitter – the white one once a medicine cabinet, sourced from Restoration Hardware in the US. Either side is a 'Bryant' wall sconce, also from The Classic Outfitter.

STYLE NOTES

Panelling on the walls *is a key feature in both bathrooms, painted in Dulux half strength Natural White. "I always like to keep walls free from tiles, if possible," explains Georgia. "In this instance, particularly in the cooler environment of the Highlands, the VJ panelling works well against the subway tiles used for wet areas. The Jerusalem floor tiles used in a French pattern was quite a large scale, particularly for the smaller ensuite, yet with great trades, and their expertise, they were able to be used."*

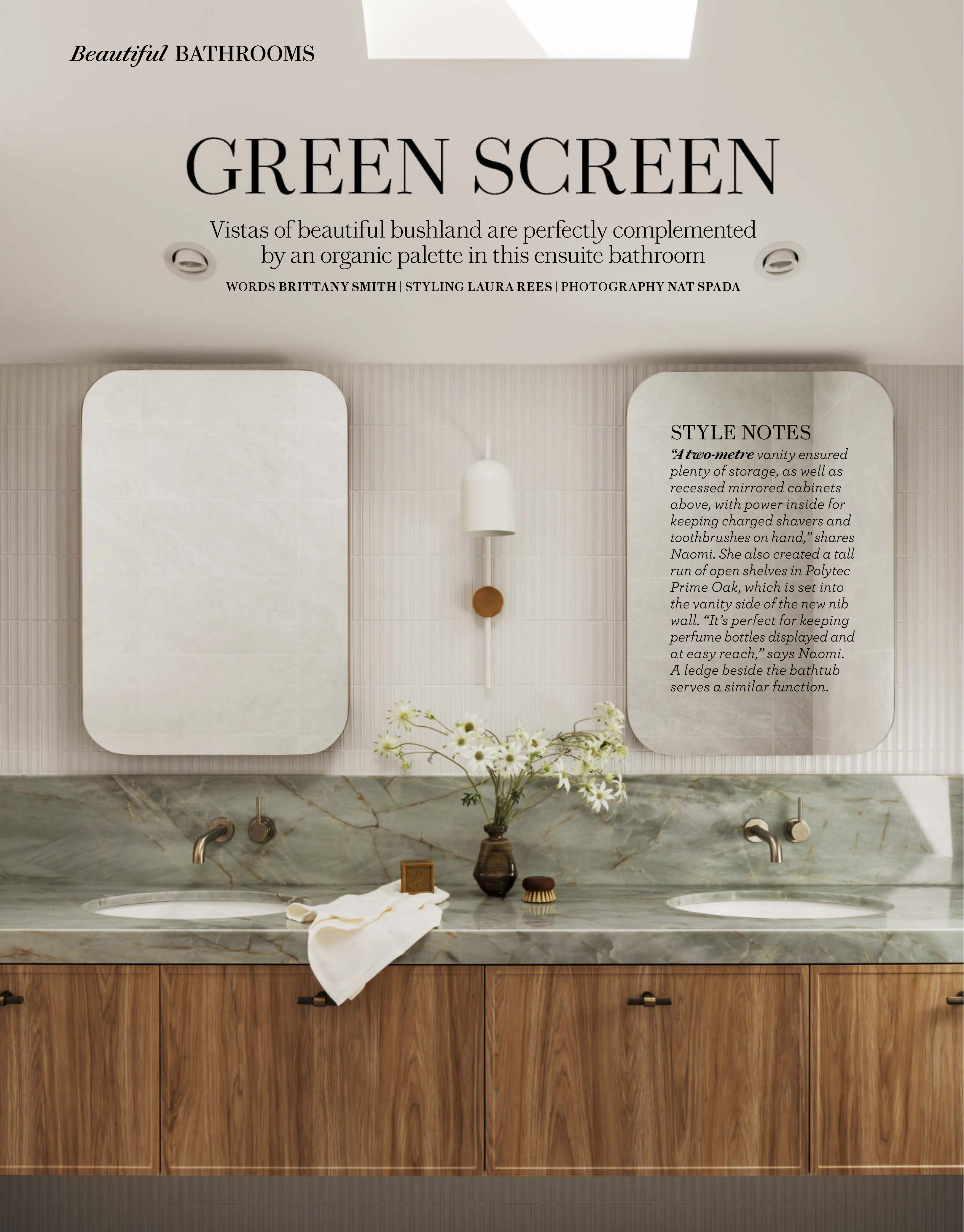
IN THE DETAILS

Artworks in the *main bathroom and ensuite (bottom right), are all from The Classic Outfitter. Other details have been added with towels from Bed Bath N' Table and a stool from Orient House. "We love to add artwork, sconce wall lights and decorative stools to place a cup of tea or book on whilst retreating in the bath," says Georgia. "Additionally, we love to include creature comforts like underfloor heating, heated towel rails and if there is also an opportunity to add some music, we take it."*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *The Classic Outfitter, theclassicoutfitter.com.*

ACTUAL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



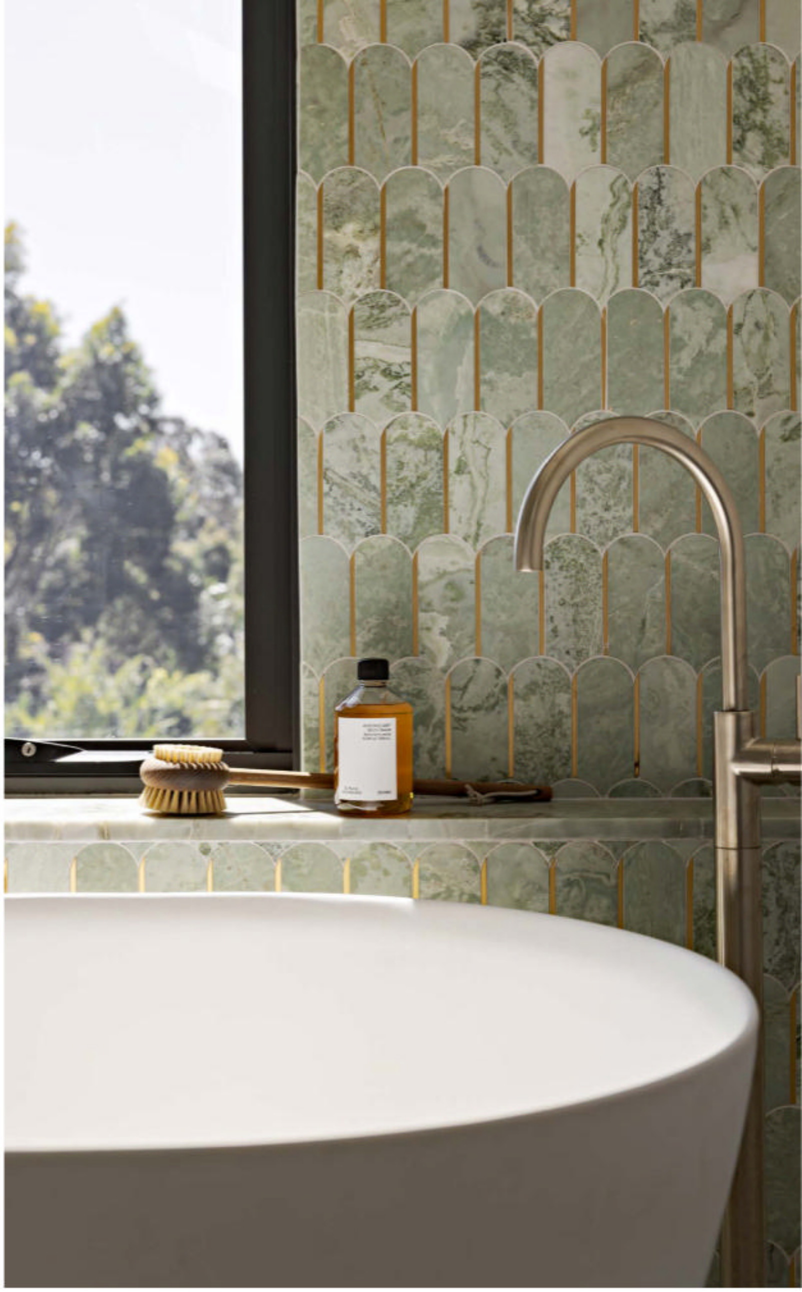
GREEN SCREEN

Vistas of beautiful bushland are perfectly complemented by an organic palette in this ensuite bathroom

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | STYLING **LAURA REES** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NAT SPADA**

STYLE NOTES

"A two-metre *vanity ensured plenty of storage, as well as recessed mirrored cabinets above, with power inside for keeping charged shavers and toothbrushes on hand," shares Naomi. She also created a tall run of open shelves in Polytec Prime Oak, which is set into the vanity side of the new nib wall. "It's perfect for keeping perfume bottles displayed and at easy reach," says Naomi. A ledge beside the bathtub serves a similar function.*



In this ensuite, situated in a new build in Sydney's Lower North Shore, you can bathe and bask in nature simultaneously. Home to an executive couple with two young children, the owners wanted a bathroom that would serve as a relaxing retreat at night, but also a functional setting for their busy routines in the morning hours.

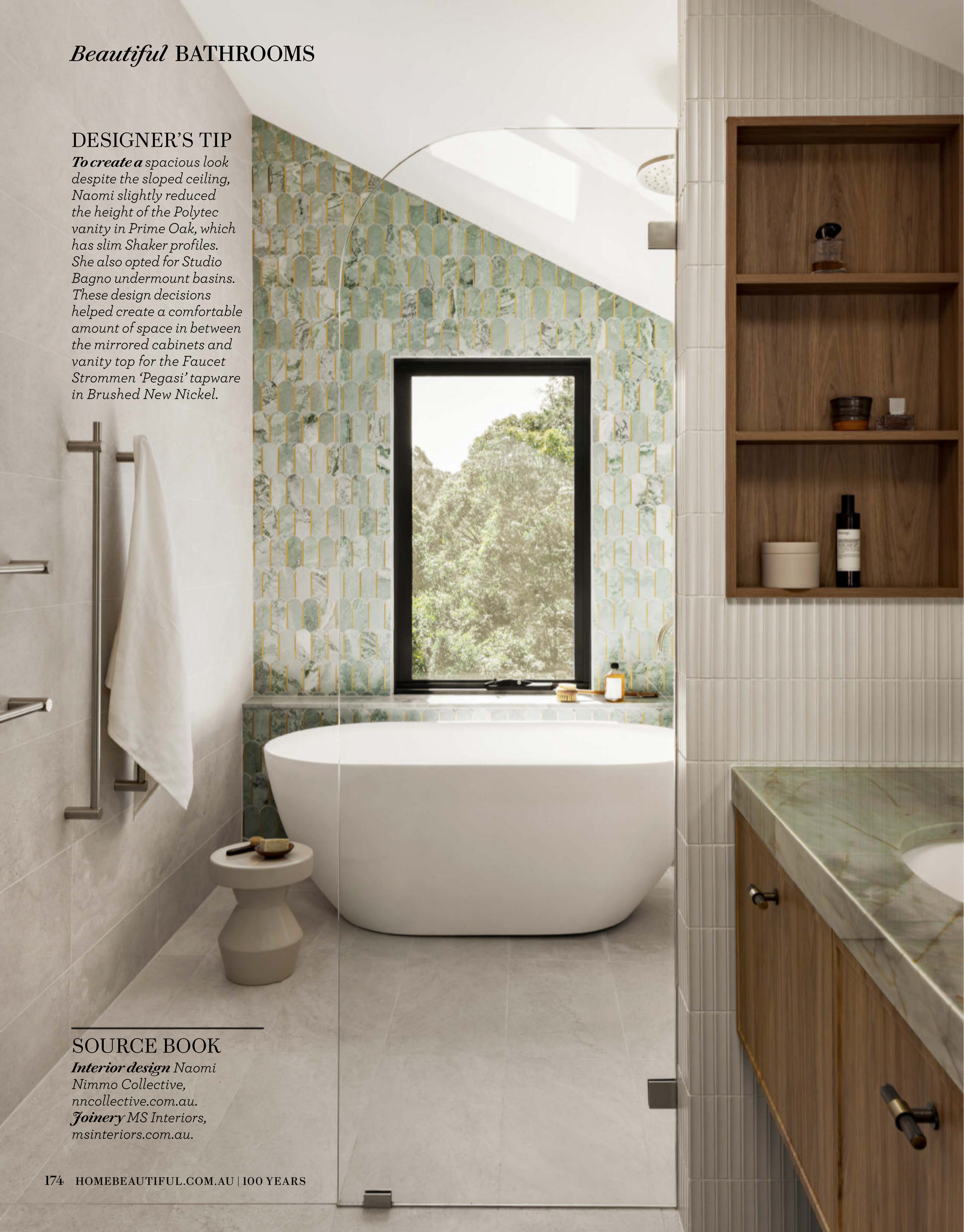
Naomi Nimmo, founder of interior design studio Naomi Nimmo Collective, was tasked with the job. "They wanted their ensuite to feel luxurious yet grounded and restful; a calm oasis, with plenty of natural light," she shares. To achieve a balance of pretty and practical, Naomi divided the space with a nib wall, creating a wet zone for the shower. Beyond that, a Gareth Ashton bath, supplied by Just Bathroomware, takes pride of place beneath a large north-facing window.

A skylight brightens the vanity and white accents, such as the textured 'Piketto' mosaic tiles in White Gloss from Surface Gallery and 'Duomo Piccolo Stem' sconce in Matte White from Nightworks Studio. Neutrals appear in the large 'Pietra Sofia' tiles from Surface Gallery, which cover the floor and walls, reaching up to the ceiling. The sage scheme is soothing, with an Emerald Green vanity top and splashback, and 'Arch Green' feature tiles, both from Styled In Stone. "We chose green to bring the outside in; the brass inlay creates depth and highlights the outline and shape of the fan design," says Naomi.

While the materials are durable and the layout is functional, the result is undeniably beautiful, with colours that evoke a sense of calm and stillness. "The bathroom style is very day spa-like, epitomising luxury and relaxation," says Naomi.

GET THE LOOK

From left *Urban Nature Culture sculptural* ***side table*** *in Natural, $420, Trit House. Dedalus honed* ***marble****, from $1400/sqm, Signorino. 'Aria'* ***towels*** *in Sand, from $14.99, Linen House. 'Pietra Sofia'* ***tile*** *in Greige, $65/sqm, Surface Gallery. Andrée Jardin* ***bath brush*** *in Beech Wood, $60, Oliver Thom. 'Piketto'* ***mosaics*** *in White Gloss (29.9cm x 29.6cm), $118/sqm, Surface Gallery.* **>**



DESIGNER'S TIP

To create a *spacious look despite the sloped ceiling, Naomi slightly reduced the height of the Polytec vanity in Prime Oak, which has slim Shaker profiles. She also opted for Studio Bagno undermount basins. These design decisions helped create a comfortable amount of space in between the mirrored cabinets and vanity top for the Faucet Strommen 'Pegasi' tapware in Brushed New Nickel.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Naomi Nimmo Collective, nncollective.com.au.* ***Joinery*** *MS Interiors, msinteriors.com.au.*

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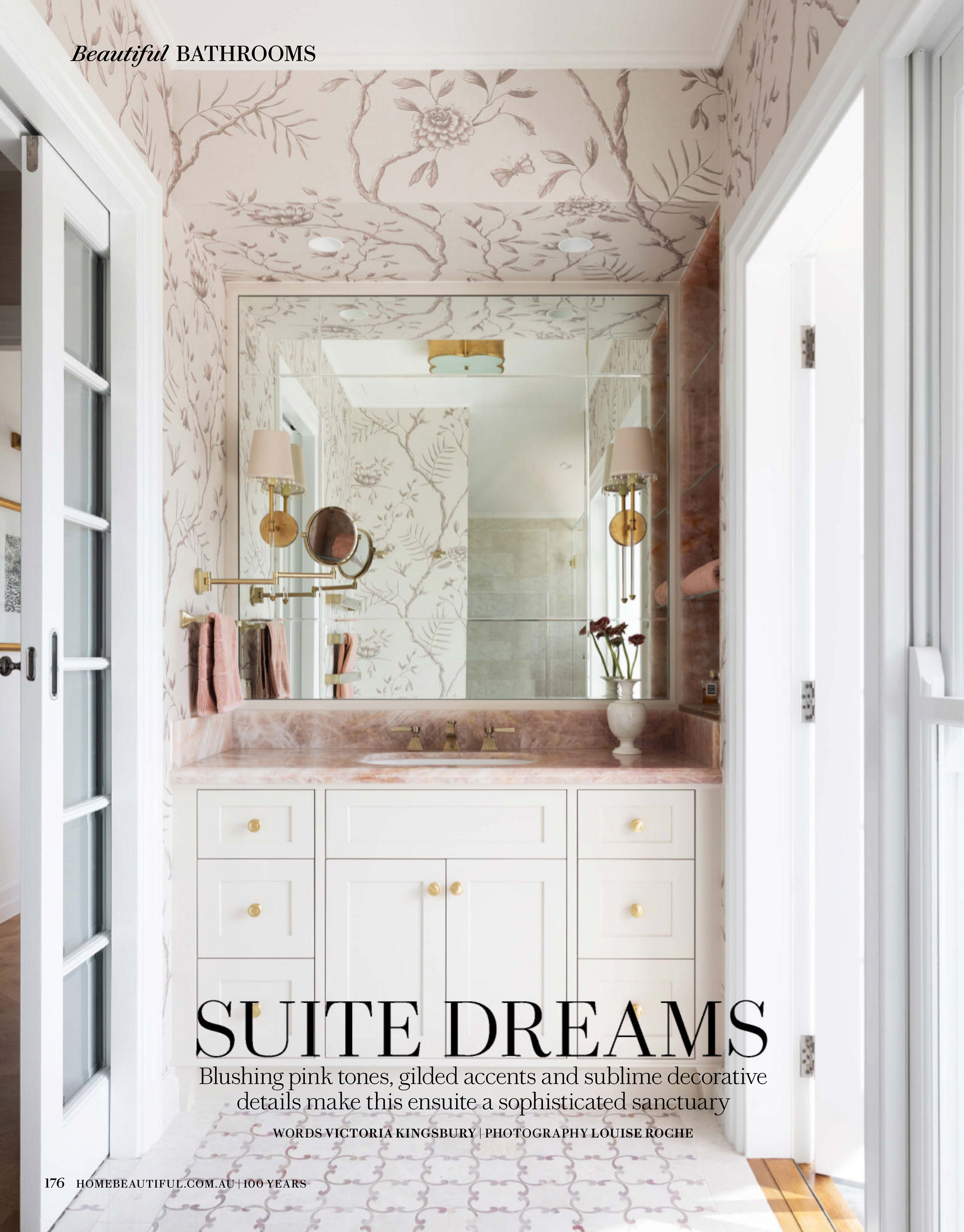


SUITE DREAMS

Blushing pink tones, gilded accents and sublime decorative details make this ensuite a sophisticated sanctuary

WORDS VICTORIA KINGSBURY | **PHOTOGRAPHY** LOUISE ROCHE

An elegant parents' retreat on the third level of this 1930s Brisbane family home encompasses two separate suites, each including a king-size bedroom, ensuite, walk-in robe and a shared sitting room, study and terrace. The couple engaged Leigh Boswell, director of design studio Highgate House, along with architect Ivan Gastaldon, who proposed adding the third storey. When it came to designing the spaces on the third level, Leigh was tasked with creating luxurious, high-end finishes and quality fittings. Here, one of the private ensuites (pictured) has become a sophisticated sanctuary with elevated design flourishes, such as the exquisite custom-printed wallpaper that pairs beautifully with the pink quartzite vanity top. "Our client loved blush pink, so we embraced it wholeheartedly – from the customised wallpaper with a soft metallic blush background to the bespoke floor tiles that tie the space together," says Leigh. "We worked within the parameters set by the architect, and provided full-service interior design, from layout and finishes to custom elements like the wallpaper and floor tiles. It was a collaborative process that allowed us to bring our vision to life while ensuring the space flowed seamlessly with the rest of the home."

STYLE NOTES

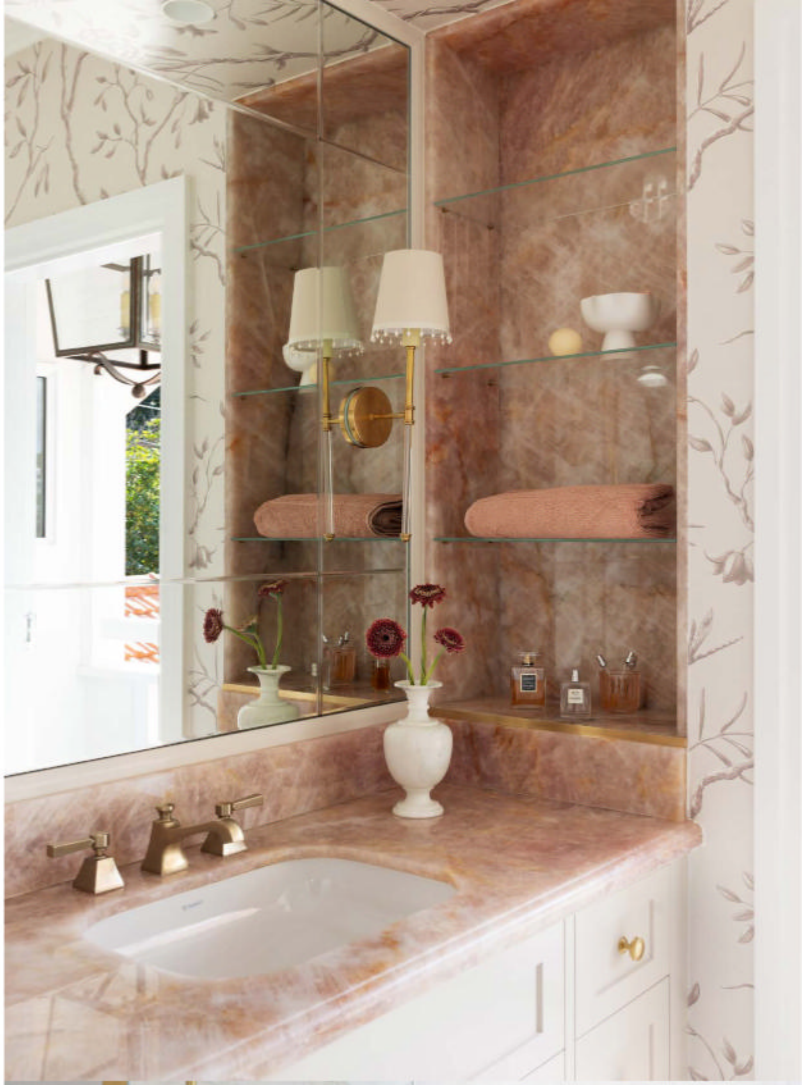
"The brief for this space *was to create a bathroom that felt luxurious, unique, and very pretty," says Leigh, who advises personal touches in a bathroom. "Keep it practical, but don't be afraid to add personality," she says. "Beautiful trays, ceramic stools and tissue boxes, are functional, but they also add interest and texture. A statement mirror can also transform the space, creating a strong focal point while adding depth and elegance.*

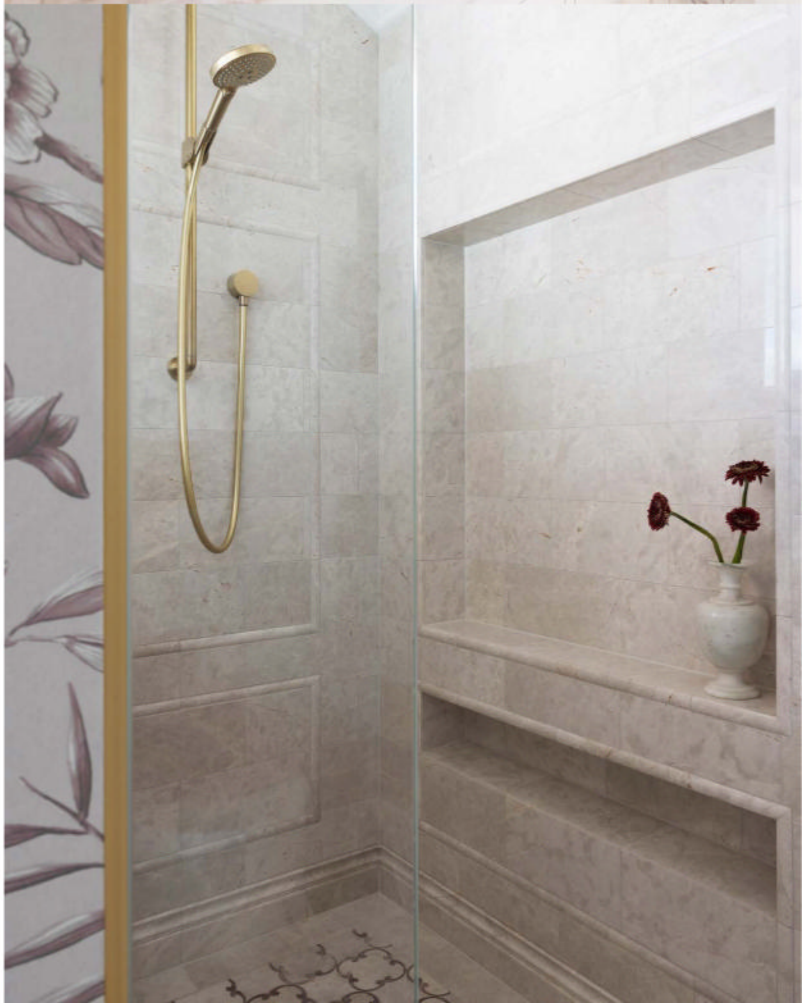
IN THE DETAILS

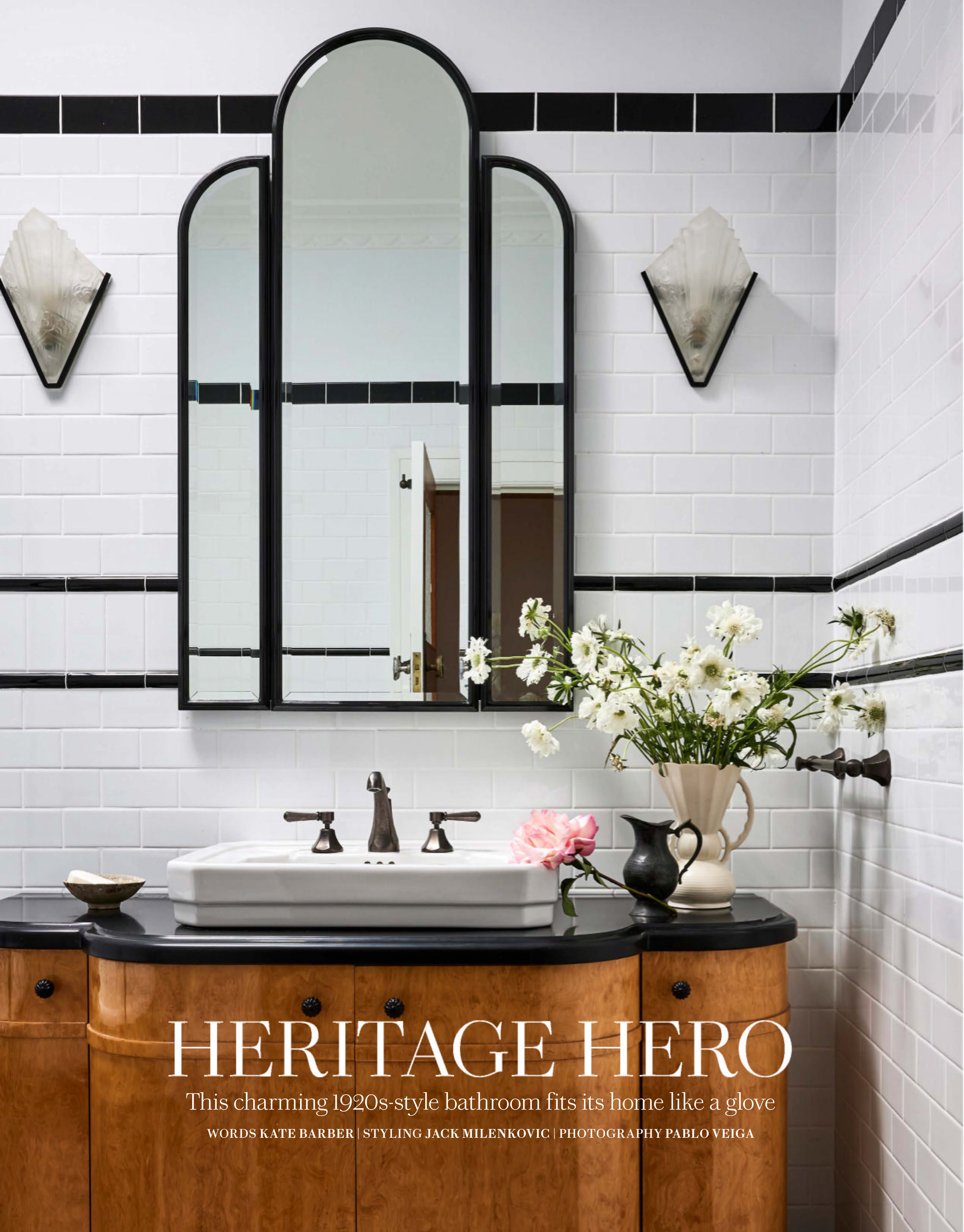
Picking up tones *from the Finestone Rose quartzite on the vanity and wall recess, is the detail in the Lewis & Wood 'Jasper Peony' wallpaper, from Elliott Clarke, and the custom 'Vito' marble and pink crystal quartzite floor tiles and 'Vito' marble shower wall tiles, all from Elite Bathware & Tiles. Finishing touches include warm brass hardware from Brodware and Axor, all from Elite Bathware & Tiles, and beautiful Visual Comfort wall and ceiling lights.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Highgate House, highgatehouse.com.au.*
Architect *Ivan Gastaldon Architects, igarchitects.com.au*



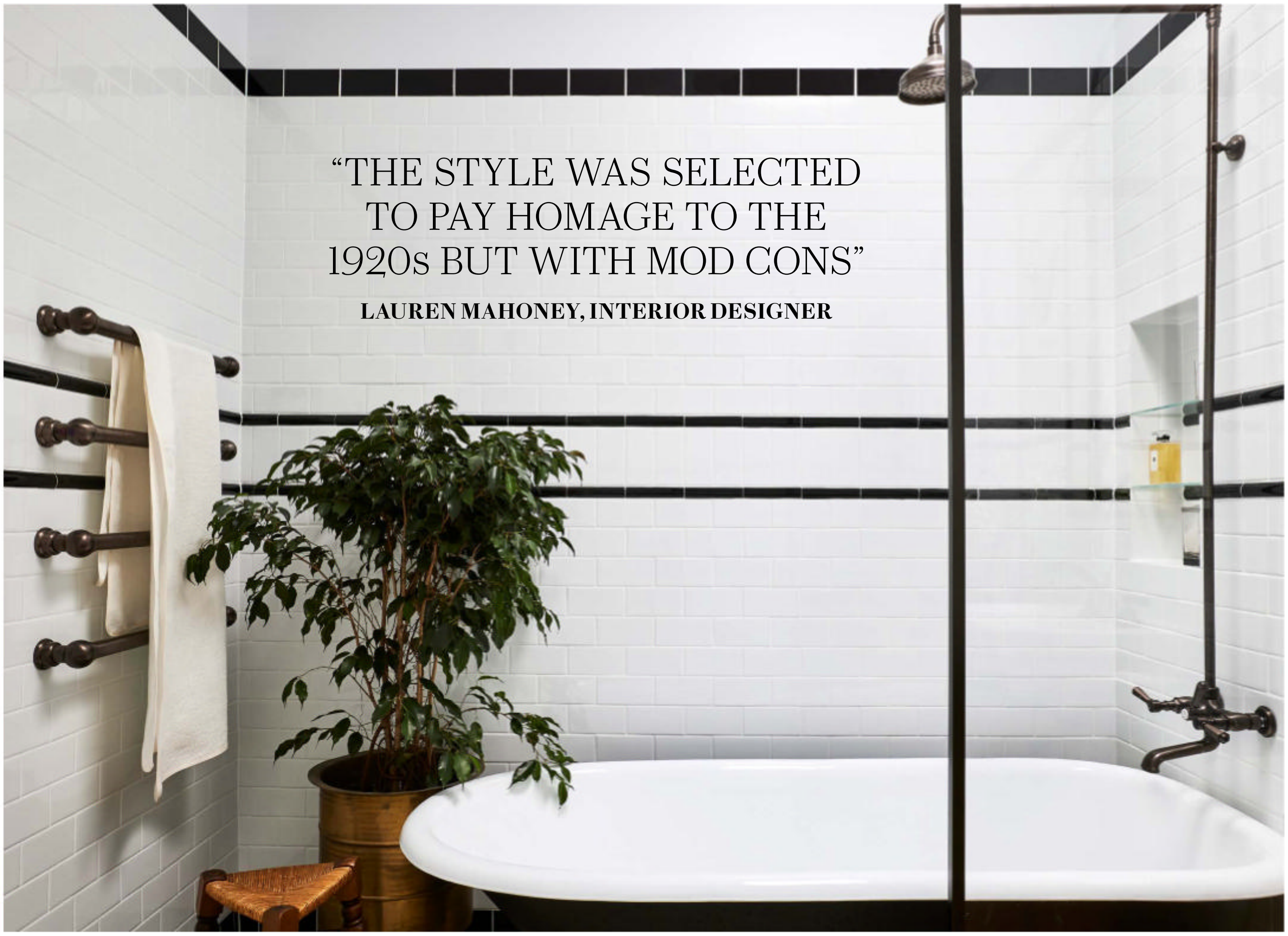




HERITAGE HERO

This charming 1920s-style bathroom fits its home like a glove

WORDS KATE BARBER | STYLING JACK MILENKOVIC | PHOTOGRAPHY PABLO VEIGA



> “THE STYLE WAS SELECTED TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE 1920s BUT WITH MOD CONS”
>
> **LAUREN MAHONEY, INTERIOR DESIGNER**

Travelling further back in time was the secret to style success in this Art Deco bathroom. Situated in a 1920s California bungalow on Sydney’s North Shore, the space was a relic of the 1980s until Lauren Mahoney, creative director of Studio Trio, stepped onsite. Lauren set about replacing the old ceiling and skylight and re-rendered the walls, before creating a 1920s-look bathroom with a contemporary twist for homeowners Jo and her partner James, who live here with daughters Anna, 18, and Izzie, 14.

“I selected black and white, cream and green, to connect the leadlight, wall colours and outside leafy trees,” says Lauren of the palette, which includes green floor tiles. “The vanity is a show stopper. I had this made by a furniture maker who specialises in traditional pieces.” Atop the cabinet, made in Briggs Veneers Oak Burl Gloss, is a vanity top in Talostone Black Pearl, a Perrin & Rowe ‘Art Deco’ basin from The English Tapware Company and Brodware ‘Classique’ tapware in Aged Iron to match the existing wall lights and black frame of the custom mirror. Now, the bathroom blends in with its heritage surrounds and the owners are charmed. “It’s a perfect fit, like it has always been there, but it’s new,” says Lauren.

DESIGNER’S TIP

Use contrasting colours *to make a strong statement. “A small space can look super fresh with white tiles and stronger floors,” says Lauren, who paired subway tiles in White Gloss with Black Gloss tiles on the walls, both from Olde English Tiles. A slender black frieze midway up the walls brings a traditional touch to the bathroom, topped with upper walls painted in crisp Dulux White on White.*

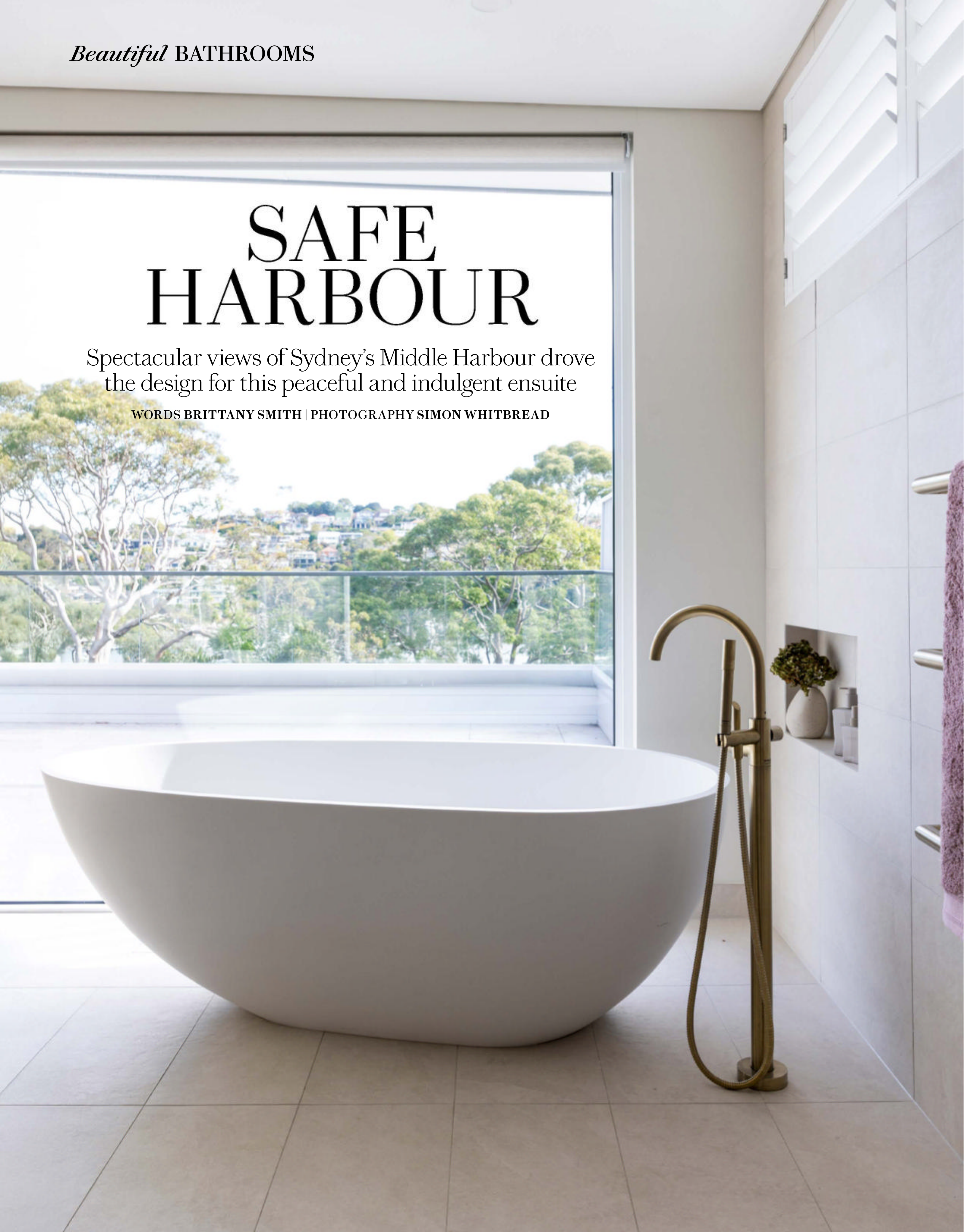
STYLE NOTES

If you’re short *on space, try to make items serve double duty. “A shower-bath is a great way to serve two purposes,” shares Lauren. Here, she used a classic ‘Rustic Roll Top 1700’ bath from Belfast Sinks, which matches the black and white palette of the bathroom. The smart Brodware ‘Winslow’ bath and shower tapware set with ‘Classique’ levers and Brodware ‘Winslow’ heated towel rails have the same finish as the basin tapware.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Studio Trio, studiotrio.com.au.* ***Builder*** *AMG Carpentry and Construction, amgcarpentry.com.au.* ***Joinery*** *Montique Exclusive Furniture, montique.com.au.* ***Stonemason*** *Architectural Stone Works, archstoneworks.com.au.*

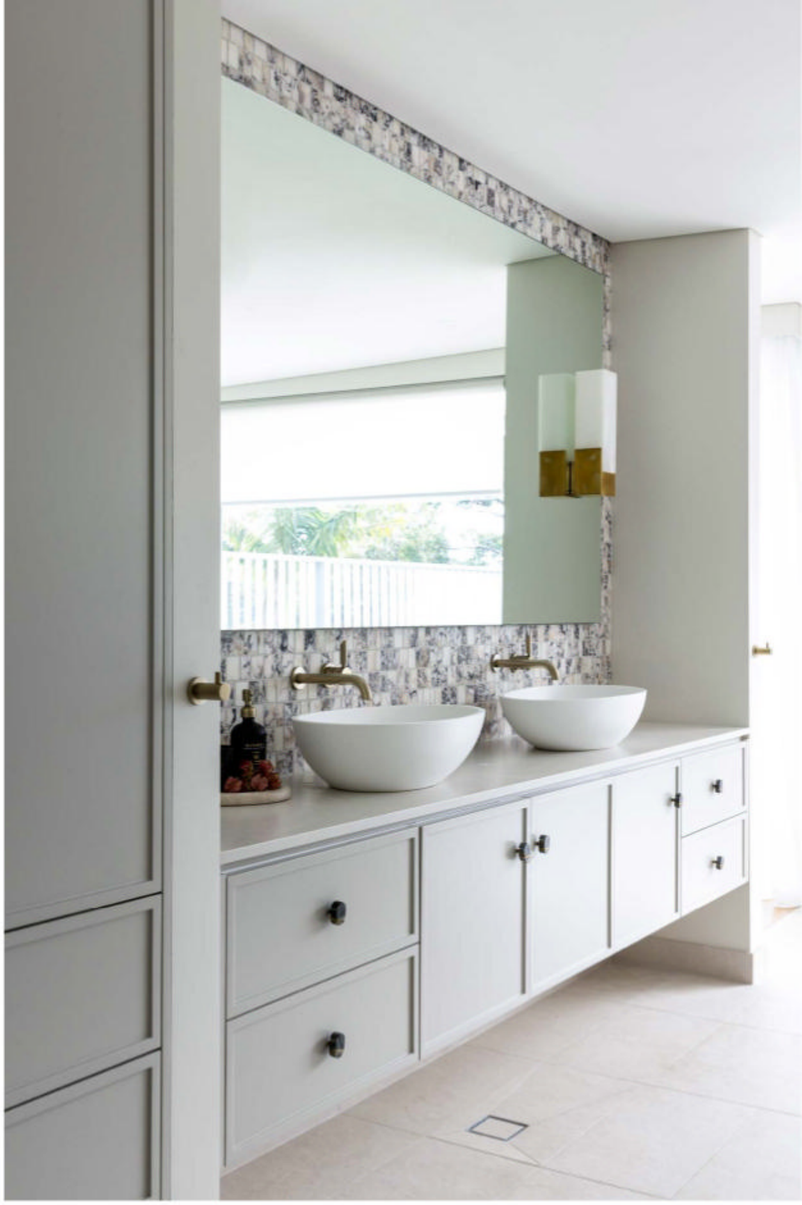
ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION



SAFE HARBOUR

Spectacular views of Sydney's Middle Harbour drove the design for this peaceful and indulgent ensuite

WORDS **BRITTANY SMITH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SIMON WHITBREAD**



Down a long, steep driveway and nestled among majestic gum trees stands a Sydney home with waterfront views. When the homeowner of this idyllic abode decided to renovate, she hired Anna Williams, director of Your Beautiful Home. The project required adding a second level, where a main bedroom suite complete with a dressing room, study, balcony and ensuite would be built. “Her ensuite, especially the bath, were key elements from the beginning,” says Anna. “This is a place for respite and rejuvenation.” And that’s exactly what she achieved.

‘Viola Ora’ honed artisan-cut mosaic tiles from Tiles by Kate formed the basis of the palette. “The natural marble had a soft rose pink hue, mixed with warm greys,” describes Anna. These became feature tiles on the wall above the vanity and in the shower, paired with the neutral tones of ‘Soft Ivory’ porcelain tiles, also from Tiles by Kate, on the other walls and floor. But the ‘Lucia’ freestanding stone bath from Moda is undoubtedly the centrepiece. It fulfilled the owner’s vision for “a place to wind down after a long day and enjoy a glass of wine with her partner, taking in the stunning view”. The oval shape is even mimicked in the twin ‘Clarette’ above-counter basins, also from Moda. With a subtly feminine feel, luxurious yet unfussy materials and plenty of storage, this ensuite is a vision befitting the natural beauty of its surrounds.

STYLE NOTES

Here, Brodware’s *‘City Plus’ collection in Brushed Swiss Brass was used for all the tapware, lending a classic elegance to the space. The joinery was designed by Your Beautiful Home, with a Shaker profile that adds timeless appeal. The joinery colour is Resene Triple White Pointer, a warm neutral that complements the Cosentino ‘Yukon’ Silestone vanity top and Do Up grey marble knobs.*

DESIGNER’S TIP

“Maximising *natural light while maintaining privacy is key in a bathroom,” says Anna. “Consider window treatments, glazing options, or the addition of strategically placed skylights to make your bathroom feel less like a heavily tiled area and more like a lovely room and a joy to be in.” Window furnishings in this ensuite include a roller blind and white timber louvres, both from Marlow & Finch.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Your Beautiful Home, yourbeautifulhome.com.au.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Vulcano Design ‘Scarpa Olivetti’* ***mosaics*** *in Viola Oro (30.4cm x 28.3cm), $26/sheet, Tile Bazaar. Kelly Wearstler ‘Covet Double Box’* ***sconce*** *in Antique Burnished Brass, $2390, The Montauk Lighting Co. Wire-wrapped* ***knob*** *in Grey, $8.95, Beautifully Handled. ‘Finley’* ***shower rail set*** *in Brushed Brass, $799.90, ABI Interiors.*

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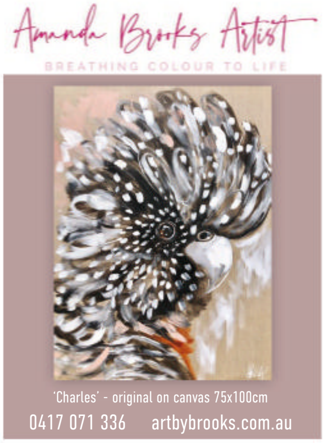
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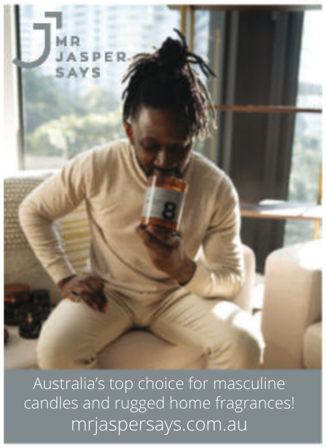
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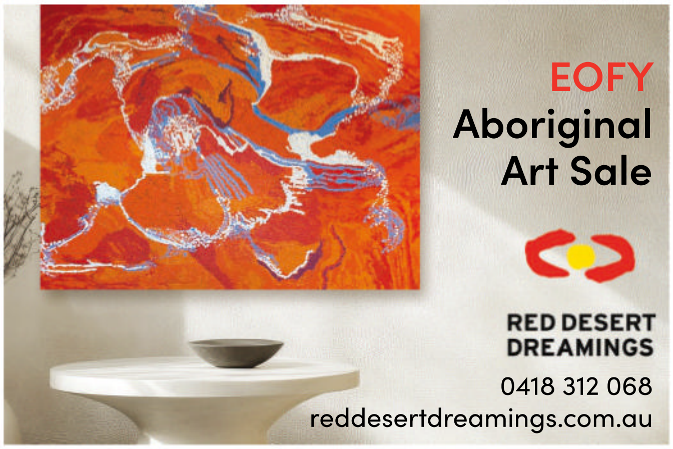

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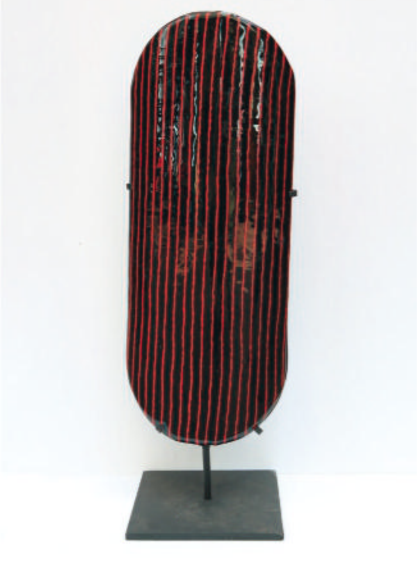

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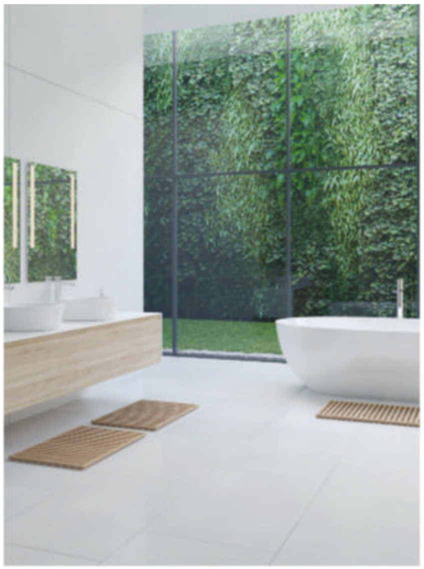

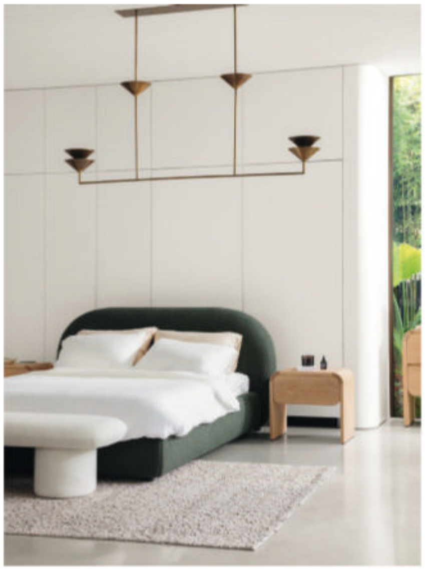

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ON SALE JUNE 2

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